



CLEAR ENERGY COALITION

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CLEAR Energy Coalition

Advancing a Clean, Local,
Equitable, Affordable, and Reliable
Energy Future for Minnesota

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April 6, 2025

Chair Frentz and Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee Members,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition supports clean, affordable, and reliable energy for all Minnesotans, including local rooftop and community solar. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on Senate File 2393, the Senate Omnibus Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Bill.

The CLEAR Energy Coalition opposes SF 2393 and urges the Committee to reject this rollback of Minnesota's clean energy policies, at a time when we should be pushing toward the state's 100 percent carbon-free goals.

We are particularly concerned by the provisions that would end net metering for municipal utility customers and rural cooperative members and that would eliminate the Community Solar Garden Program.

The changes to Minnesota's net metering policy contained in Article 3, Sections 5 and 6, lines 11.15-14.12 (from SF 1142) would unfairly reduce compensation for rooftop solar owners in rural areas and small towns for the electricity they put on the grid. This would take away options from farmers, households, and small businesses who want to lower their energy costs, make it harder for moderate- and low-income families to go solar, and reduce Minnesota's energy independence. It would also kill jobs in the state's solar industry — for example, California [lost about 17,000 jobs](#) after making changes to its net metering policy. While we appreciate that this policy change would not be applied retroactively, the provisions in SF 2393 would still constitute a rollback of policy with no evidence that it is necessary or beneficial.

Similarly, sunseting Minnesota's [nation-leading Community Solar Garden Program](#), per Article 3, Section 7, lines 14.13-14.15 (from SF 2855), would be a radical reversal to state policy. The Legislature made changes less than two years ago to improve program benefits for low- to moderate-income (LMI) families and add important consumer protection provisions. Community solar makes it possible for thousands of Minnesotans — especially working class families, renters, and others who can't afford rooftop solar — to reduce their electricity bills and share the financial benefits of clean energy. For Minnesota as a whole, the revised Community Solar Garden Program is expected to deliver nearly \$3 billion in *net* benefits, [according to the Department of Commerce](#) — in part, because community solar gardens deliver savings for all utility customers by lowering peak demand and avoiding expensive transmission grid upgrades.

Notably, the program also creates new jobs in the green economy and provides crucial revenue for family farms via lease payments.

In addition to these CLEAR Energy Coalition priorities, we are also concerned about a number of other provisions in SF 2393, including reduced oversight on diesel generators for data centers and inclusion of large hydropower and biodiesel fuel facilities in Minnesota's 100 percent carbon-free electricity standard. These provisions would threaten the state's ability to meet its climate and clean energy goals.

Again, we respectfully encourage the Committee to oppose SF 2393 to ensure that Minnesota's clean energy transition brings tangible economic and health benefits to all of our state's families and communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition

Black Visions
Cooperative Energy Futures
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Vote Solar

Community Power
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Solar United Neighbors