

Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

<u>Protect Minnesota Energy Dominance</u> <u>MnSEIA's 2025 Legislative Session Call-to-Action Kit</u>

MnSEIA Members,

Conference Committee negotiations are underway at the Minnesota Legislature, and the future of our state's solar + storage industry is on the line. Provisions in the Omnibus Energy Bill (HF 2442) threaten Minnesota's nation-leading Community Solar Garden program and could undermine homeowners' right to fair net metering.

Lawmakers need to hear from those directly impacted. Take 5 minutes to call the conferees using our phone call script. View the conference committee members' contact information on pages 2 and 3. Within the kit, you'll find sample messages and easy actions to help you contact legislators, share on social media, and speak out. Please help protect solar jobs, clean energy access, and Minnesota's national leadership. Thank you!

What's Included:

(Click on the links below to jump to the section)

- <u>View House Conference Committee Members</u> and their contact information
- <u>View Senate Conference Committee Members</u> and their contact information
- Contact Your Lawmaker Find who represents you here
- <u>Phone Call Script</u> To call Conference Committee Members
- <u>View Customizable Sample Letter</u> To send or email
- <u>Social Media Toolkit</u> Please spread the word!
 - Find graphics <u>here</u>.
- How-To and FAQ -
 - What should I expect when calling a lawmaker?
 - What is a Conference Committee and an Omnibus bill?

House Conference Committee Members

(Click on the Representative's name below to view their House profile)



Representative Patty Acomb (DFL- Minnetonka) District: 45B Legislative Assistant: Declan McGuire 5th Floor Centennial Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-9934 rep.patty.acomb@house.mn.gov



Representative Larry Kraft (DFL- St. Louis Park) District: 46A Legislative Assistant: Caleb Rohrer 5th Floor Centennial Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-7026 rep.larry.kraft@house.mn.gov



Representative Tom Sexton (R- Owatonna) District: 19B Legislative Assistant: Mitchel Fischer 2nd Floor Centennial Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-5368 rep.tom.sexton@house.mn.gov



Representative Chris Swedzinski (R- Marshall) District: 15A Legislative Assistant: Sharon Goblisch 2nd Floor Centennial Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-5374 rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn.gov

Senate Conference Committee Members

(Click on the Senator's name below to view their Senate profile)



Senator Nick Frentz (DFL- Mankato) District: 18 Legislative Assistant: Travis Urness Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109 St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-6153 sen.nick.frentz@senate.mn



Senator Andrew Mathews (R- Princeton) District: 27
Legislative Assistant: Matthew Noonan
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5285
sen.andrew.mathews@senate.mn



Senator Tou Xiong (DFL- Maplewood) District: 44
Legislative Assistant: Sebastian Gonzales
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3203
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-6820
sen.tou.xiong@senate.mn

Phone Call Script

(Find a how-to and best practices for lawmaker calls on page 12)

Hi, my name is [First and Last Name], and I'm a [installer/business owner/engineer/etc.] working in Minnesota's solar industry at [Company Name].

I'm calling to encourage you to keep harmful changes to Minnesota's vital solar programs out of the Energy Omnibus Bill (HF 2442). Protecting Minnesotans' rights to go solar supports Minnesota families, farmers, and small businesses who depend on the ability to choose from energy options that work for them and that offer fair compensation for the energy they produce.

Specifically, I'm urging you to:

- Prevent changes to Minnesota's net metering policy; and
- Remove the provision that sunsets Minnesota's Community Solar Garden (CSG) program in 2030.

Net Metering

Minnesota was the first state in the nation to pass net metering enabling legislation. This vital tool has led to over 25,000 Minnesotans securing long-term certainty on their monthly electric utility bills. Net metering offers a market rate, fair compensation to Minnesotans who invest in their own energy infrastructure that benefits everyone through a stronger, more resilient grid. Rather than paying out-of-state companies for power generation and investing billions in interstate transmission lines, utilities should be empowering their customers to participate in clean energy development.

Community Solar

Community solar has been a cornerstone of Minnesota's clean energy success. Since launching in 2013, the program has:

- Delivered \$1.67 billion in economic benefits to the state
- Supported over 800 MW of clean energy on the grid
 Served more than 34,000 residential and commercial subscribers
- Delivered at least \$139 million in net savings to low-to-moderate-income
 (LMI) subscribers

Now is not the time to scale back a nationally recognized, successful program. With so much uncertainty at the federal level, Minnesota must lead by doubling down on what works.

Minnesota has installed almost 3 Gigawatts of solar across the state. It's our small-scale, locally generated systems, like community solar gardens and rooftop arrays, that deliver the most direct benefits to families, farmers, and small businesses. These systems produce energy where it's used, strengthen the grid, reduce infrastructure costs, and keep energy dollars in our communities. Pulling back now would stall progress, threaten jobs, and limit access to clean energy for the Minnesotans who need it most.

Please protect Minnesota's energy future. Prevent changes to Minnesota's net metering policy and do not sunset the Community Solar Garden program.

Thank you,
[Your Name]

Customizable Sample Letter

(Add this to your company's letterhead, if applicable. This can be emailed or mailed.

Physical mail makes more of an impact, if you have the time!)

Representative/Senator Name 1234 Street Office 1 St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Protect Minnesota Energy Dominance and the Community Solar Program, HF 2442 Energy Omnibus Bill

Dear [Representative/Senator Name],

I am writing to encourage you to keep harmful changes to Minnesota's vital solar programs out of the Energy Omnibus Bill (HF 2442). Protecting Minnesotans' rights to go solar supports Minnesota families, farmers, and small businesses who depend on the ability to choose from energy options that work for them and that offer fair compensation for the energy they produce.

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Please protect Minnesota's energy future. Prevent changes to Minnesota's net metering policy and do not sunset the Community Solar Garden program.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Company

Social Media Toolkit

Find shareable graphics <u>here</u>. (Email <u>mholz@mnseia.org</u> for more file types.)

Use the materials below to help us flood #mnleg with support for Community Solar. Post these graphics and messages on your personal or company social media accounts to show lawmakers that Minnesotans support this program.

MnSEIA's Socials:

Website Homepage: www.mnseia.org | X: www.mnseia.org | LinkedIn: <a href="www.mnseia

X/Bluesky:

Post 1:

- Minnesota has built 900+ MW of community solar with 34,000+ subscribers
- 25,000+ people use net metering to lower their energy bills.

HF 2442 would sunset community solar by 2030 and could weaken net metering next.

Tell #mnleg to keep solar strong: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Post 2: Over 900 MW of clean energy, \$1.67B in benefits, 34,000+ subscribers, and thousands more Minnesotans relying on net metering.

HF 2442 would roll back community solar and open the door to further limits.

Act now: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Post 3: We're proud to support solar access in Minnesota. HF 2442 would end new community solar projects after 2030, and net metering protections could be next. Let's keep MN a leader in clean energy.

Take action: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Post 4: Community solar gardens and net metering help make #cleanenergy more accessible & affordable across MN. HF 2442 threatens one and puts the other at risk. Tell #MnLeg we need strong, local solar policies: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/

Post 5: Minnesota once ranked 1st in the nation for the largest community solar garden program. Tell #mnleg to HF 2442 would sunset it, and net metering could be next. Tell #mnleg to protect these vital energy programs.

Find your lawmaker at: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/

LinkedIn/Facebook:

Post 1: Community solar is under threat in HF 2442. And net metering, which ensures Minnesotans are fairly compensated for the solar energy they produce, could be next.

These two policies are cornerstones of Minnesota's clean energy leadership. They've empowered over 34,000 customers to access solar and 25,000 more to get fair credit for the energy they generate.

Let lawmakers know:

Protect Community Solar

Keep Net Metering Off the Chopping Block

https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Post 2: Minnesota's clean energy success was built on community solar and net metering, two programs that give families, farmers, and small businesses the power to choose local, affordable energy.

But HF 2442 already includes a sunset on community solar, and net metering is strongly at-risk.

Now's the time to speak up. Tell your legislator to protect both: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Post 3: DYK Minnesota ranks 19th in the U.S. for installed solar capacity and employs over 5,000 people in solar? Thousands of residents also rely on net metering to stabilize their energy bills. But HF 2442 would end new community solar projects by 2030, and puts fair solar compensation at risk.

Urge your lawmaker to protect Minnesota's clean energy leadership: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Post 4: With uncertainty at the federal level, Minnesota must double down on what works: community solar and net metering. Both help Minnesotans take control of their energy bills, reduce costs, and strengthen the local grid. But HF 2442 puts all of that progress in jeopardy.

Tell your legislator to protect proven clean energy programs: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Email Alert:

Alert 1: Minnesota's nation-leading Community Solar Garden (CSG) program is at risk. A sunset provision in the House Energy Omnibus Bill (HF 2442) would end new CSG projects after 2030. This rollback threatens progress on solar access and affordability.

What's more, net metering protections could also be weakened. Net metering helps over 25,000 Minnesotans manage their electricity bills by providing fair compensation for solar energy sent back to the grid. Losing either program would be a major step backward for Minnesota's clean energy future.

Here's what's at stake:

- A 2030 end date for new community solar projects
- The potential loss of fair compensation through net metering
- Thousands of jobs and billions in clean energy investment

Take action now: Contact your legislators and ask them to remove the Community Solar sunset from HF 2442 and prevent changes to Minnesota's net metering policy.

Find your lawmaker: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

Alert 2: For over a decade, Minnesota has led the nation in community solar, with over 900 MW installed and more than 34,000 subscribers. At the same time, net metering has empowered 25,000+ residents to lower their electricity bills by investing in rooftop solar. These tools have made clean energy more accessible, more affordable, and more local. But that progress is in danger.

The House Energy Omnibus Bill (HF 2442) includes a provision that would sunset the Community Solar Garden program in 2030 and opens the door to harmful changes to net metering. We need lawmakers to protect both programs. Community solar and net metering support jobs, reduce energy costs, and keep energy dollars in Minnesota communities.

Take action today and tell your legislators to:

- Remove the sunset provision from HF 2442
- Protect Minnesotans' rights to fair solar compensation

Find your lawmaker: https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

How-To and FAQ

What to expect when calling a lawmaker:

Lawmaker calls may sound intimidating but they're easy and <u>very</u> effective! Making a call should take 1-2 minutes of your time. Lawmakers receive hundreds of emails a day but not many calls, so your call makes a difference. Legislative assistants tally each call they receive. If they get more than 5 calls about a topic, they're very likely to alert the lawmaker.

- A legislative assistant (LA) will answer the phone. They'll ask if you need a response, which is up to you but not required. They will also ask for your zip code to confirm if you're a constituent.
 - You do not need to be a constituent to call, but it does help if you are since lawmakers will prioritize their constituents first.
 - If your company does business in their district, mention that with your company's name. Lawmakers love to hear about job numbers and investments in their districts.
- If you're sent to voicemail, leave the same message.
- **Be clear about what issue you're calling about**. Say the bill names and what provisions you are especially interested in.
- **Be as personal as possible**. While we provided a sample script, personal stories make more impact and increase the chance of your message being passed along. How long have you worked in the industry? What was it like installing a system on a school and seeing how happy the students were? How has a CSG impacted your community?
- Remember to thank the LA for their time!

For more, check out this **New York Times article!**

Omnibus Bill and Conference Committee FAQ

What is an Omnibus Bill?

- An Omnibus Bill is simply a package of budget measures and policy changes on the same topic.
- Omnibus Bills are the same as regular bills in the sense that they are formal proposals to change laws that are voted on by lawmakers.

Why do lawmakers use Omnibus Bills?

- These bills originated as a way to structurally bundle similar bills into one spot.
- More often now, Omnibus Bills package countless bills and can be very complicated. This is why we saw a few of MnSEIA's smaller bills heard in committees and then "laid over for possible inclusion" in this large Omnibus Bill instead of passing separately.
- Instead of trying to get dozens of bills passed, lawmakers can focus their energies on getting one giant bill over the finish line.

What is a Conference Committee?

• The legislative process requires that both the House and Senate agree to identical bill language for their respective bills to pass. When the House and Senate versions of the same bill differ, those differences must be resolved. That is why a temporary Conference Committee is established.

Who is on the committee?

• Conference committee members are selected by the majority leadership of both chambers. Typically, 3-5 members of the House and Senate are included.

What is their goal?

• The committee's goal is to produce a conference report (a negotiated version of the bill) to be approved by both the House and Senate. One important note is that once the conference report is established, it cannot be amended.