



February 9, 2017

Minnesota House of Representatives

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

We write today in opposition to HF 235/SF 214 on behalf of the 3,800 hard-working Minnesotans that are employed in the solar industry. This legislation, if enacted, will not only kill an important component of Minnesota's solar industry, it will also pull the rug out on solar businesses that have made investments and finalized contracts for solar projects this year. Repealing the Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive Program (MiM) three years into its ten-year cycle will negatively impact the entire solar industry value chain resulting in the immediate loss of investments and jobs throughout the state.

In 2013, the legislature – like most other legislatures around the country – developed a solar incentive program with a goal of establishing a Minnesota-based solar industry marketplace. The Made in Minnesota (MiM) program is succeeding in that endeavor. Since the enactment of MiM, Minnesota's residential and small business sector of the solar industry has grown exponentially with over 1,100 installations. Businesses have opened their doors in big and small towns across the state and have offered employment opportunities to rural Minnesotans who had been economically displaced by the recession. In some instances, businesses have even relocated from other states to take advantage of Minnesota's solar-friendly policies. MiM has increased Minnesota's ability to compete nationally in securing businesses in this sector while delivering economic benefits statewide.

According to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, MiM has been responsible for the creation of 495 jobs in Minnesota's solar sector and the majority of the industry utilizes this program to market their products and services. Because of the MiM program, Minnesota's small businesses are better able to compete with larger, out-of-state companies.

Just as other states are implementing new or stronger solar incentive programs, Minnesota is moving to eliminate its own. HF 235/SF 214 repeals the MiM program with immediate effect. Not only would this devastate our state's strong and growing roof top solar industry, it instantly terminates funds set to be

awarded on February 28, 2017—less than two weeks from today. What should our home-grown businesses tell their customers? How can these companies recoup the investments they have already made? How can Minnesota expect to continue to compete nationally in this fast-growing sector if we repeal this program and tell our solar business community we've changed our minds?

We urge you to vote “No” on this legislation and to support the continued growth of solar in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

1. Alexandria Industries
2. All Energy Solar
3. Applied Energy Innovations
4. Aquilla Solar
5. Cedar Creek Energy
6. Energy Concepts
7. Ideal Energy
8. Innovative Power Systems
9. iTek Energy
10. Powerfully Green
11. RREAL
12. Solar Connection
13. Solar Farm
14. SunDance Energy Solutions
15. SunDial Solar
16. SunRun
17. TruNorth Solar
18. Werner Electric
19. Winona Renewable Energy, LLC
20. Zenergy

