

Dear Representative:

The proposed legislation concerning solar power generation in Minnesota, as it pertains to the percentage rates of generating capacity, is very unrealistic and needs further study before being entered into law. Solar power sounds like a great plan for a great clean energy future; however, moving forward with a 10% generating capacity for all power companies in MN by 2030 is very short sighted and dangerous to the jobs of most tradesmen & women.

Solar rays are the only renewable part of the solar power energy system. Large amounts of Fossil Fuels are used to make the cells that harness the rays that turn them into electricity. Toxic substances like Mercury and Chromium are also used, which unfortunately end up in landfills and then are leached into our ground water or someone else's ground water. Silica sand is also needed to make the cells which we here in the state of Minnesota know is a serious concern. China has control of about 90% of the metals needed to make some of the photovoltaic cells used in solar generation. Therefore, these metals are continually rising in cost and being bought from the very country that we have lost our competitive edge to.

Solar power needs to be backed up by natural gas, coal, or a nuclear power generating facility because of its inefficiencies and lack of current storage option for the energy produced. Solar power does virtually nothing to reduce the carbon footprint here in the United States due to the fact that solar energy in its current form and technologies having to be backed up by the previous 3 fuel sources. What it will do is put more tradesmen & women out of work from very good living wage jobs, and lead us further down the path towards rolling brown outs and the inability to produce electricity at peak generating times.

Because of the tremendous amounts of capital needed to implement the 10% solar by 2030 and the loss of living wage jobs associated with it we ask you this: **Please change your generating percentage rates to the following:**

1% by 2016 2.5% by 2020 3.5% by 2025 5% by 2030.

We also ask that in Sec.7. Subdivision 5.c there be language that states:

In the case of a large solar electric generating plant over two megs and if state or federal subsidies are used in the construction of, or permitting process of said project, then union contractors shall be used to build and maintain the project in the form of a PLA. In the event union contractors cannot be obtained the prevailing wage shall apply to the construction and maintenance of said project.

Please think long and hard on the choice in front of you. This is not a decision that can continue without serious, serious thought of the ramifications to the working class job losses of current construction unions and energy rate hikes to end users.

Sincerely,