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State of Minnesota

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

**H. F. No. 956**

- 02/25/2013 Authored by Hortman and Morgan  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Policy
- 03/18/2013 Adoption of Report: Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy
- 04/02/2013 Adoption of Report: Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
- 05/03/2013 Adoption of Report: Pass as Amended and Read Second Time
- 05/07/2013 Calendar for the Day, Amended  
Read Third Time as Amended  
Passed by the House as Amended and transmitted to the Senate to include Floor Amendments

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to energy; amending various provisions related to utilities; modifying

1.3 provisions governing cogeneration and small power production; establishing

1.4 a value of solar rate and related regulations; permitting community solar

1.5 generating facilities; creating various renewable energy incentives; requiring

1.6 studies; extending sunsets; making technical corrections; appropriating money;

1.7 amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 16C.144, subdivision 2; 116C.779,

1.8 subdivision 3; 216B.02, subdivision 4; 216B.03; 216B.16, subdivision 7b, by

1.9 adding a subdivision; 216B.1635; 216B.164, subdivisions 3, 4, 6, by adding

1.10 subdivisions; 216B.1691, subdivisions 1, 2a, 2e, by adding a subdivision;

1.11 216B.1692, subdivisions 1, 8, by adding a subdivision; 216B.1695, subdivision

1.12 5, by adding a subdivision; 216B.23, subdivision 1a; 216B.241, subdivision 1e;

1.13 216B.2411, subdivision 3; 216C.436, subdivisions 7, 8; Laws 2005, chapter

1.14 97, article 10, section 3; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,

1.15 chapters 216B; 216C; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1637.

1.16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.17 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 16C.144, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.18 Subd. 2. **Guaranteed energy-savings agreement.** The commissioner may enter

1.19 into a guaranteed energy-savings agreement with a qualified provider if:

1.20 (1) the qualified provider is selected through a competitive process in accordance

1.21 with the guaranteed energy-savings program guidelines within the Department of

1.22 Administration;

1.23 (2) the qualified provider agrees to submit an engineering report prior to the

1.24 execution of the guaranteed energy-savings agreement. The cost of the engineering report

1.25 may be considered as part of the implementation costs if the commissioner enters into a

1.26 guaranteed energy-savings agreement with the provider;

1.27 (3) the term of the guaranteed energy-savings agreement shall not exceed ~~15~~ 25

1.28 years from the date of final installation;

2.1 (4) the commissioner finds that the amount it would spend on the utility cost-savings  
2.2 measures recommended in the engineering report will not exceed the amount to be  
2.3 saved in utility operation and maintenance costs over ~~15~~ 25 years from the date of  
2.4 implementation of utility cost-savings measures;

2.5 (5) the qualified provider provides a written guarantee that the annual utility,  
2.6 operation, and maintenance cost savings during the term of the guaranteed energy-savings  
2.7 agreement will meet or exceed the annual payments due under a lease purchase agreement.  
2.8 The qualified provider shall reimburse the state for any shortfall of guaranteed utility,  
2.9 operation, and maintenance cost savings; and

2.10 (6) the qualified provider gives a sufficient bond in accordance with section  
2.11 574.26 to the commissioner for the faithful implementation and installation of the utility  
2.12 cost-savings measures.

2.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 116C.779, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.14 Subd. 3. **Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment.** (a)  
2.15 Notwithstanding subdivision 1, paragraph (g), beginning July 1, 2009, and each July 1  
2.16 through 2011, and on July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014, \$5,000,000 must be allocated from the  
2.17 renewable development account to fund a grant to the Board of Regents of the University  
2.18 of Minnesota for the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment for the purposes  
2.19 described in paragraph (b). The Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment  
2.20 must set aside at least 15 percent of the funds received annually under the grant for  
2.21 qualified projects conducted at a rural campus or experiment station. Any set-aside funds  
2.22 not awarded to a rural campus or experiment station at the end of the fiscal year revert  
2.23 back to the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment for its exclusive use.  
2.24 This subdivision does not create an obligation to contribute funds to the account.

2.25 (b) Activities funded under this grant may include, but are not limited to:

2.26 (1) environmentally sound production of energy from a renewable energy source,  
2.27 including biomass and agricultural crops;

2.28 (2) environmentally sound production of hydrogen from biomass and any other  
2.29 renewable energy source for energy storage and energy utilization;

2.30 (3) development of energy conservation and efficient energy utilization technologies;

2.31 (4) energy storage technologies; and

2.32 (5) analysis of policy options to facilitate adoption of technologies that use or  
2.33 produce low-carbon renewable energy.

2.34 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision:

3.1 (1) "biomass" means plant and animal material, agricultural and forest residues,  
3.2 mixed municipal solid waste, and sludge from wastewater treatment; and

3.3 (2) "renewable energy source" means hydro, wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal  
3.4 energy, and microorganisms used as an energy source.

3.5 (d) Beginning January 15 of 2010, and each year thereafter, the director of the  
3.6 Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment at the University of Minnesota shall  
3.7 submit a report to the chair and ranking minority members of the senate and house of  
3.8 representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over energy finance describing the  
3.9 activities conducted during the previous year funded under this subdivision.

3.10 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.02, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

3.11 Subd. 4. **Public utility.** "Public utility" means persons, corporations, or other legal  
3.12 entities, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, now or hereafter operating, maintaining,  
3.13 or controlling in this state equipment or facilities for furnishing at retail natural,  
3.14 manufactured, or mixed gas or electric service to or for the public or engaged in the  
3.15 production and retail sale thereof but does not include (1) a municipality or a cooperative  
3.16 electric association, organized under the provisions of chapter 308A, producing or  
3.17 furnishing natural, manufactured, or mixed gas or electric service; (2) a retail seller of  
3.18 compressed natural gas used as a vehicular fuel which purchases the gas from a public  
3.19 utility; or (3) a retail seller of electricity used to recharge a battery that powers an electric  
3.20 vehicle, as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 26a, and that is not otherwise a public  
3.21 utility under this chapter. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this chapter shall  
3.22 not be applicable to any sale of natural, manufactured, or mixed gas or electricity by a  
3.23 public utility to another public utility for resale. In addition, the provisions of this chapter  
3.24 shall not apply to a public utility whose total natural gas business consists of supplying  
3.25 natural, manufactured, or mixed gas to not more than 650 customers within a city pursuant  
3.26 to a franchise granted by the city, provided a resolution of the city council requesting  
3.27 exemption from regulation is filed with the commission. The city council may rescind  
3.28 the resolution requesting exemption at any time, and, upon the filing of the rescinding  
3.29 resolution with the commission, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to the public  
3.30 utility. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility if it furnishes its services only to  
3.31 tenants or cooperative or condominium owners in buildings owned, leased, or operated  
3.32 by such person. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility if it furnishes service  
3.33 to occupants of a manufactured home or trailer park owned, leased, or operated by such  
3.34 person. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility if it produces or furnishes service  
3.35 to less than 25 persons. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility solely as a result

4.1 of financing or owning distributed generation equipment located on a customer's property,  
4.2 provided that all of the electricity produced by the generating equipment is delivered or  
4.3 sold to the utility that serves the customer.

4.4 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.03, is amended to read:

4.5 **216B.03 REASONABLE RATE.**

4.6 Every rate made, demanded, or received by any public utility, or by any two or  
4.7 more public utilities jointly, shall be just and reasonable. Rates shall not be unreasonably  
4.8 preferential, unreasonably prejudicial, or discriminatory, but shall be sufficient, equitable,  
4.9 and consistent in application to a class of consumers. To the maximum reasonable extent,  
4.10 the commission shall set rates to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy use  
4.11 and to further the goals of sections 216B.164, 216B.241, ~~and~~ 216C.05, and 216C.412. Any  
4.12 doubt as to reasonableness should be resolved in favor of the consumer. For rate-making  
4.13 purposes a public utility may treat two or more municipalities served by it as a single class  
4.14 wherever the populations are comparable in size or the conditions of service are similar.

4.15 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.16, is amended by adding a subdivision  
4.16 to read:

4.17 Subd. 6e. **Solar energy production incentive.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in  
4.18 this subdivision, all assessments authorized by section 216C.412 incurred in connection  
4.19 with the solar energy production incentive shall be recognized and included by the  
4.20 commission in the determination of just and reasonable rates as if the expenses were  
4.21 directly made or incurred by the utility in furnishing utility service.

4.22 (b) The commission shall not include expenses for the solar energy production  
4.23 incentive in determining just and reasonable electric rates for retail electric service provided  
4.24 to customers receiving the low-income electric rate discount authorized by subdivision 14.

4.25 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.16, subdivision 7b, is amended to read:

4.26 Subd. 7b. **Transmission cost adjustment.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision  
4.27 of this chapter, the commission may approve a tariff mechanism for the automatic annual  
4.28 adjustment of charges for the Minnesota jurisdictional costs net of associated revenues of:

4.29 (i) new transmission facilities that have been separately filed and reviewed and  
4.30 approved by the commission under section 216B.243 or are certified as a priority project  
4.31 or deemed to be a priority transmission project under section 216B.2425; ~~and~~

4.32 (ii) new transmission facilities approved by the regulatory commission of the state  
4.33 in which the new transmission facilities are to be constructed, to the extent approval

5.1 is required by the laws of that state, and determined by the Midwest Independent  
 5.2 Transmission System Operator to benefit the utility or integrated transmission system; and  
 5.3 (iii) charges incurred by a utility under a federally approved tariff that accrue  
 5.4 from other transmission owners' regionally planned transmission projects that have been  
 5.5 determined by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator to benefit the  
 5.6 utility, as provided for under a federally approved tariff or integrated transmission system.

5.7 (b) Upon filing by a public utility or utilities providing transmission service, the  
 5.8 commission may approve, reject, or modify, after notice and comment, a tariff that:

5.9 (1) allows the utility to recover on a timely basis the costs net of revenues of  
 5.10 facilities approved under section 216B.243 or certified or deemed to be certified under  
 5.11 section 216B.2425 or exempt from the requirements of section 216B.243;

5.12 (2) allows the utility to recover charges incurred by a utility under a federally  
 5.13 approved tariff that accrue from other transmission owners' regionally planned  
 5.14 transmission projects that have been determined by the Midwest Independent Transmission  
 5.15 System Operator to benefit the utility, as provided for under a federally approved tariff  
 5.16 or integrated transmission system. These charges must be reduced or offset by revenues  
 5.17 received by the utility and by amounts the utility charges to other regional transmission  
 5.18 owners, to the extent those revenues and charges have not been otherwise offset;

5.19 (3) allows the utility to recover on a timely basis the costs net of associated revenues  
 5.20 of facilities approved by the regulatory commission of the state in which the new  
 5.21 transmission facilities are to be constructed and determined by the Midwest Independent  
 5.22 Transmission System Operator to benefit the utility or integrated transmission system;

5.23 (4) allows a return on investment at the level approved in the utility's last general  
 5.24 rate case, unless a different return is found to be consistent with the public interest;

5.25 (4) (5) provides a current return on construction work in progress, provided that  
 5.26 recovery from Minnesota retail customers for the allowance for funds used during  
 5.27 construction is not sought through any other mechanism;

5.28 (5) (6) allows for recovery of other expenses if shown to promote a least-cost project  
 5.29 option or is otherwise in the public interest;

5.30 (6) (7) allocates project costs appropriately between wholesale and retail customers;

5.31 (7) (8) provides a mechanism for recovery above cost, if necessary to improve the  
 5.32 overall economics of the project or projects or is otherwise in the public interest; and

5.33 (8) (9) terminates recovery once costs have been fully recovered or have otherwise  
 5.34 been reflected in the utility's general rates.

5.35 (c) A public utility may file annual rate adjustments to be applied to customer bills  
 5.36 paid under the tariff approved in paragraph (b). In its filing, the public utility shall provide:

- 6.1 (1) a description of and context for the facilities included for recovery;
- 6.2 (2) a schedule for implementation of applicable projects;
- 6.3 (3) the utility's costs for these projects;
- 6.4 (4) a description of the utility's efforts to ensure the lowest costs to ratepayers for
- 6.5 the project; and
- 6.6 (5) calculations to establish that the rate adjustment is consistent with the terms
- 6.7 of the tariff established in paragraph (b).

6.8 (d) Upon receiving a filing for a rate adjustment pursuant to the tariff established in

6.9 paragraph (b), the commission shall approve the annual rate adjustments provided that,

6.10 after notice and comment, the costs included for recovery through the tariff were or are

6.11 expected to be prudently incurred and achieve transmission system improvements at the

6.12 lowest feasible and prudent cost to ratepayers.

6.13 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1635, is amended to read:

6.14 **216B.1635 RECOVERY OF GAS UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS.**

6.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) "Gas utility" means a public utility as defined in

6.16 section 216B.02, subdivision 4, that furnishes natural gas service to retail customers.

6.17 (b) "Gas utility infrastructure costs" or "GUIC" means costs incurred in gas utility

6.18 projects that:

6.19 (1) do not serve to increase revenues by directly connecting the infrastructure

6.20 replacement to new customers;

6.21 (2) are in service but were not included in the gas utility's rate base in its most

6.22 recent general rate case; ~~and,~~ or are planned to be in service during the period covered

6.23 by the report submitted under subdivision 2, but in no case longer than the one-year

6.24 forecast period in the report; and

6.25 (3) ~~replace or modify existing infrastructure if the replacement or modification does~~

6.26 ~~not constitute a betterment, unless the betterment is required by a political subdivision,~~

6.27 ~~as evidenced by specific documentation from the government entity requiring the~~

6.28 ~~replacement or modification of infrastructure~~ do not constitute a betterment, unless the

6.29 betterment is based on requirements by a political subdivision or a federal or state agency,

6.30 as evidenced by specific documentation, an order, or other similar requirement from the

6.31 government entity requiring the replacement or modification of infrastructure.

6.32 (c) "Gas utility projects" means ~~relocation and:~~

6.33 (1) replacement of natural gas facilities located in the public right-of-way required

6.34 by the construction or improvement of a highway, road, street, public building, or other

7.1 public work by or on behalf of the United States, the state of Minnesota, or a political  
7.2 subdivision; and

7.3 (2) replacement or modification of existing natural gas facilities, including surveys,  
7.4 assessments, reassessment, and other work necessary to determine the need for replacement  
7.5 or modification of existing infrastructure that is required by a federal or state agency.

7.6 Subd. 2. **Gas infrastructure filing.** ~~(a) The commission may approve a gas utility's~~  
7.7 ~~petition for a rate schedule~~ A public utility submitting a petition to recover GUIC gas  
7.8 infrastructure costs under this section. ~~A gas utility may~~ must submit to the commission,  
7.9 the department, and interested parties a gas infrastructure project plan report and a petition  
7.10 the commission to recover a rate of return, income taxes on the rate of return, incremental  
7.11 property taxes, plus incremental depreciation expense associated with GUIC for rate  
7.12 recovery of only incremental costs associated with projects under subdivision 1, paragraph  
7.13 (c). The report and petition must be made at least 150 days in advance of implementation  
7.14 of the rate schedule, provided that the rate schedule will not be implemented until the  
7.15 petition is approved by the commission pursuant to subdivision 5. The report must be  
7.16 for a forecast period of one year.

7.17 (b) ~~The filing is subject to the following:~~

7.18 ~~(1) A gas utility may submit a filing under this section no more than once per year.~~

7.19 ~~(2) A gas utility must file sufficient information to satisfy the commission regarding~~  
7.20 ~~the proposed GUIC or be subject to denial by the commission. The information includes,~~  
7.21 ~~but is not limited to:~~

7.22 ~~(i) the government entity ordering the gas utility project and the purpose for which~~  
7.23 ~~the project is undertaken;~~

7.24 ~~(ii) the location, description, and costs associated with the project;~~

7.25 ~~(iii) a description of the costs, and salvage value, if any, associated with the existing~~  
7.26 ~~infrastructure replaced or modified as a result of the project;~~

7.27 ~~(iv) the proposed rate design and an explanation of why the proposed rate design~~  
7.28 ~~is in the public interest;~~

7.29 ~~(v) the magnitude and timing of any known future gas utility projects that the utility~~  
7.30 ~~may seek to recover under this section;~~

7.31 ~~(vi) the magnitude of GUIC in relation to the gas utility's base revenue as approved~~  
7.32 ~~by the commission in the gas utility's most recent general rate case, exclusive of gas~~  
7.33 ~~purchase costs and transportation charges;~~

7.34 ~~(vii) the magnitude of GUIC in relation to the gas utility's capital expenditures since~~  
7.35 ~~its most recent general rate case;~~

8.1 ~~(viii) the amount of time since the utility last filed a general rate case and the utility's~~  
8.2 ~~reasons for seeking recovery outside of a general rate case; and~~  
8.3 ~~(ix) documentation supporting the calculation of the GUIC.~~

8.4 Subd. 3. **Gas infrastructure project plan report.** The gas infrastructure project  
8.5 plan report required to be filed under subdivision 2 shall include all pertinent information  
8.6 and supporting data on each proposed project including, but not limited to, project  
8.7 description and scope, estimated project costs, and the estimated project in-service date.

8.8 Subd. 4. **Cost recovery petition for utility's facilities.** Notwithstanding any other  
8.9 provision of this chapter, the commission may approve a rate schedule for the automatic  
8.10 annual adjustment of charges for gas utility infrastructure costs net of revenues under  
8.11 this section, including a rate of return, income taxes on the rate of return, incremental  
8.12 property taxes, incremental depreciation expense, and any incremental operation and  
8.13 maintenance costs. A gas utility's petition for approval of a rate schedule to recover  
8.14 gas utility infrastructure costs outside of a general rate case under section 216B.16 is  
8.15 subject to the following:

8.16 (1) a gas utility may submit a filing under this section no more than once per year; and

8.17 (2) a gas utility must file sufficient information to satisfy the commission regarding  
8.18 the proposed GUIC. The information includes but is not limited to:

8.19 (i) the information required to be included in the gas infrastructure project plan  
8.20 report under subdivision 3;

8.21 (ii) the government entity ordering or requiring the gas utility project and the  
8.22 purpose for which the project is undertaken;

8.23 (iii) a description of the estimated costs and salvage value, if any, associated with the  
8.24 existing infrastructure replaced or modified as a result of the project;

8.25 (iv) a comparison of the utility's estimated costs included in the gas infrastructure  
8.26 project plan and the actual costs incurred, including a description of the utility's efforts to  
8.27 ensure the costs of the facilities are reasonable and prudently incurred;

8.28 (v) calculations to establish that the rate adjustment is consistent with the terms  
8.29 of the rate schedule, including the proposed rate design and an explanation of why the  
8.30 proposed rate design is in the public interest;

8.31 (vi) the magnitude and timing of any known future gas utility projects that the  
8.32 utility may seek to recover under this section;

8.33 (vii) the magnitude of GUIC in relation to the gas utility's base revenue as approved  
8.34 by the commission in the gas utility's most recent general rate case, exclusive of gas  
8.35 purchase costs and transportation charges;



9.1 (viii) the magnitude of GUIC in relation to the gas utility's capital expenditures  
9.2 since its most recent general rate case; and

9.3 (ix) the amount of time since the utility last filed a general rate case and the utility's  
9.4 reasons for seeking recovery outside of a general rate case.

9.5 Subd. 5. **Commission action.** Upon receiving a gas utility report and petition for  
9.6 cost recovery under subdivision 2, the commission may approve the annual GUIC rate  
9.7 adjustments provided that, after notice and comment, the commission determines that the  
9.8 costs included for recovery through the rate schedule are prudently incurred and achieve  
9.9 gas facility improvements at the lowest reasonable and prudent cost to ratepayers.

9.10 Subd. 6. **Rate of return.** The return on investment for the rate adjustment shall be  
9.11 at the level approved by the commission in the public utility's most recently completed  
9.12 general rate case, unless the commission determines that a different rate of return is in  
9.13 the public interest.

9.14 Subd. 3 7. **Commission authority; rules.** The commission may issue orders and  
9.15 adopt rules necessary to implement and administer this section.

9.16 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.164, is amended by adding a  
9.17 subdivision to read:

9.18 Subd. 2a. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms  
9.19 have the meanings given them:

9.20 (b) "Aggregated meter" means a meter located on the premises of a customer's  
9.21 owned or leased property that is contiguous with property containing the customer's  
9.22 designated meter.

9.23 (c) "Capacity" means the number of megawatts alternating current (AC) at the point  
9.24 of interconnection between a solar photovoltaic device and a utility's electric system.

9.25 (d) "Cogeneration" means a combined process whereby electrical and useful thermal  
9.26 energy are produced simultaneously.

9.27 (e) "Contiguous property" means property owned or leased by the customer sharing  
9.28 a common border, without regard to interruptions in contiguity caused by easements,  
9.29 public thoroughfares, transportation rights-of-way, or utility rights-of-way.

9.30 (f) "Customer" means the person who is named on the utility electric bill for the  
9.31 premises.

9.32 (g) "Designated meter" means a meter that is physically attached to the customer's  
9.33 facility that the customer-generator designates as the first meter to which net metered  
9.34 credits are to be applied as the primary meter for billing purposes when the customer is  
9.35 serviced by more than one meter.

- 10.1 (h) "Distributed generation" means a facility that:  
 10.2 (1) has a capacity of ten megawatts or less;  
 10.3 (2) is interconnected with a utility's distribution system, over which the commission  
 10.4 has jurisdiction; and  
 10.5 (3) generates electricity from natural gas, renewable fuel, or a similarly clean fuel,  
 10.6 and may include waste heat, cogeneration, or fuel cell technology.
- 10.7 (i) "High-efficiency distributed generation" means a distributed energy facility  
 10.8 that has a minimum efficiency of 40 percent, as calculated under section 272.0211,  
 10.9 subdivision 1.
- 10.10 (j) "Net metered facility" means an electric generation facility constructed for the  
 10.11 purpose of offsetting energy use through the use of renewable energy or high-efficiency  
 10.12 distributed generation sources.
- 10.13 (k) "Renewable energy" has the meaning given in section 216B.2411, subdivision 2.
- 10.14 (l) "Standby charge" means a charge imposed by an electric utility upon a distributed  
 10.15 generation facility for the recovery of fixed costs necessary to make electricity service  
 10.16 available to the distributed generation facility.

10.17 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.164, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

10.18 Subd. 3. **Purchases; small facilities.** (a) For a qualifying facility having less than  
 10.19 40-kilowatt capacity if interconnected with a cooperative association or municipal utility,  
 10.20 or less than a 1,000-kilowatt capacity if interconnected with a public utility, the customer  
 10.21 shall be billed for the net energy supplied by the utility according to the applicable  
 10.22 rate schedule for sales to that class of customer. In the case of net input into the utility  
 10.23 system by a qualifying facility having less than 40-kilowatt capacity if interconnected  
 10.24 with a cooperative association or municipal utility, or less than a 1,000-kilowatt capacity  
 10.25 if interconnected with a public utility, compensation to the customer shall be at a per  
 10.26 kilowatt-hour rate determined under paragraph (b) or (c).

10.27 (b) In setting rates, the commission shall consider the fixed distribution costs to the  
 10.28 utility not otherwise accounted for in the basic monthly charge and shall ensure that the  
 10.29 costs charged to the qualifying facility are not discriminatory in relation to the costs  
 10.30 charged to other customers of the utility. The commission shall set the rates for net  
 10.31 input into the utility system based on avoided costs as defined in the Code of Federal  
 10.32 Regulations, title 18, section 292.101, paragraph (b)(6), the factors listed in Code of  
 10.33 Federal Regulations, title 18, section 292.304, and all other relevant factors.

10.34 (c) Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the contrary, a qualifying facility  
 10.35 having less than 40-kilowatt capacity if interconnected with a cooperative association or

11.1 municipal utility, or less than a 1,000-kilowatt capacity if interconnected with a public  
11.2 utility, may elect that the compensation for net input by the qualifying facility into the  
11.3 utility system shall be at the average retail utility energy rate. "Average retail utility energy  
11.4 rate" is defined as the average of the retail energy rates, exclusive of special rates based  
11.5 on income, age, or energy conservation, according to the applicable rate schedule of the  
11.6 utility for sales to that class of customer.

11.7 (d) If the qualifying facility is interconnected with a nongenerating utility which has  
11.8 a sole source contract with a municipal power agency or a generation and transmission  
11.9 utility, the nongenerating utility may elect to treat its purchase of any net input under this  
11.10 subdivision as being made on behalf of its supplier and shall be reimbursed by its supplier  
11.11 for any additional costs incurred in making the purchase. Qualifying facilities having less  
11.12 than 40-kilowatt capacity if interconnected with a cooperative association or municipal  
11.13 utility, or less than a 1,000-kilowatt capacity if interconnected with a public utility, may, at  
11.14 the customer's option, elect to be governed by the provisions of subdivision 4.

11.15 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.164, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

11.16 Subd. 4. **Purchases; wheeling; costs.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph  
11.17 (c), this subdivision shall apply to all qualifying facilities having 40-kilowatt capacity  
11.18 or more if interconnected with a cooperative association or municipal utility, and a  
11.19 1,000-kilowatt capacity or more if interconnected with a public utility, as well as qualifying  
11.20 facilities as defined in subdivision 3 which elect to be governed by its provisions.

11.21 (b) The utility to which the qualifying facility is interconnected shall purchase all  
11.22 energy and capacity made available by the qualifying facility. The qualifying facility shall  
11.23 be paid the utility's full avoided capacity and energy costs as negotiated by the parties, as  
11.24 set by the commission, or as determined through competitive bidding approved by the  
11.25 commission. The full avoided capacity and energy costs to be paid a qualifying facility  
11.26 that generates electric power by means of a renewable energy source are the utility's least  
11.27 cost renewable energy facility or the bid of a competing supplier of a least cost renewable  
11.28 energy facility, whichever is lower, unless the commission's resource plan order, under  
11.29 section 216B.2422, subdivision 2, provides that the use of a renewable resource to meet  
11.30 the identified capacity need is not in the public interest.

11.31 (c) For all qualifying facilities having 30-kilowatt capacity or more, the utility  
11.32 shall, at the qualifying facility's or the utility's request, provide wheeling or exchange  
11.33 agreements wherever practicable to sell the qualifying facility's output to any other  
11.34 Minnesota utility having generation expansion anticipated or planned for the ensuing ten  
11.35 years. The commission shall establish the methods and procedures to insure that except

12.1 for reasonable wheeling charges and line losses, the qualifying facility receives the full  
12.2 avoided energy and capacity costs of the utility ultimately receiving the output.

12.3 (d) The commission shall set rates for electricity generated by renewable energy.

12.4 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.164, is amended by adding a  
12.5 subdivision to read:

12.6 Subd. 4a. **Aggregation of meters.** (a) For the purpose of measuring electricity  
12.7 under subdivision 3, a public utility must aggregate for billing purposes a customer's  
12.8 designated meter with one or more aggregated meters if a customer requests that it do  
12.9 so. To qualify for aggregation under this subdivision, a meter must be owned by the  
12.10 customer requesting the aggregation, must be located on contiguous property owned by  
12.11 the customer requesting the aggregation, and the total capacity of all qualifying facilities  
12.12 attached to a customer's aggregated meters must not exceed the maximum capacity of  
12.13 qualifying facilities eligible to be governed under this section. Any aggregation of meters  
12.14 must be governed under this section.

12.15 (b) A customer must give at least 60 days' notice to the public utility prior to a  
12.16 request that additional meters be included in meter aggregation. The specific meters must  
12.17 be identified at the time of the request. In the event that more than one meter is identified,  
12.18 the customer must designate the rank order for the aggregated meters to which the net  
12.19 metered credits are to be applied. At least 60 days prior to the beginning of the next  
12.20 annual billing period, a customer may amend the rank order of the aggregated meters,  
12.21 subject to the provisions of this subdivision.

12.22 (c) The aggregation of meters applies only to charges that use kilowatt-hours as the  
12.23 billing determinant. All other charges applicable to each meter account must be billed to  
12.24 the customer.

12.25 (d) If the net metered facility supplies more electricity to the public utility than  
12.26 the energy usage recorded by the customer's designated and aggregated meters during a  
12.27 monthly billing period, the public utility must apply credits to the customer's next monthly  
12.28 bill for the excess kilowatt-hours. The public utility must first apply the kilowatt-hour  
12.29 credit to the charges for the designated meter and then to the charges for the aggregated  
12.30 meters in the rank order specified by the customer.

12.31 (e) With the commission's prior approval, a public utility may charge a customer  
12.32 requesting to aggregate meters a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs incurred  
12.33 as a result of implementing the provisions of this subdivision, pursuant to a tariff approved  
12.34 by the commission.

13.1 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.164, is amended by adding a  
13.2 subdivision to read:

13.3 Subd. 4b. **Limiting cumulative generation.** The commission may limit the  
13.4 cumulative generation of qualifying facilities under subdivision 3. A public utility may  
13.5 request the commission to limit the cumulative generation of qualifying facilities under  
13.6 subdivision 3 upon a showing that such generation has reached three percent of the public  
13.7 utility's annual retail electricity sales. The commission may limit additional net metering  
13.8 obligations under this subdivision only after providing notice and opportunity for public  
13.9 comment. In determining whether to limit additional net metering obligations under this  
13.10 subdivision, the commission shall consider:

- 13.11 (1) the environmental and other public policy benefits of net metered facilities;  
13.12 (2) the impact of net metered facilities on electricity rates for customers without  
13.13 net metered systems;  
13.14 (3) the effects of net metering on the reliability of the electric system;  
13.15 (4) technical advances or technical concerns; and  
13.16 (5) other statutory obligations imposed on the commission or on a utility.

13.17 The commission may limit additional net metering obligations under clauses (2) to (4) only  
13.18 if it determines that additional net metering obligations would cause significant rate impact,  
13.19 require significant measures to address reliability, or raise significant technical issues.

13.20 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.164, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

13.21 Subd. 6. **Rules and uniform contract.** (a) The commission shall promulgate rules  
13.22 to implement the provisions of this section. The commission shall also establish a uniform  
13.23 statewide form of contract for use between utilities and a qualifying facility having less  
13.24 than ~~40-kilowatt~~ 1,000-kilowatt capacity.

13.25 (b) The commission shall require the qualifying facility to provide the utility with  
13.26 reasonable access to the premises and equipment of the qualifying facility if the particular  
13.27 configuration of the qualifying facility precludes disconnection or testing of the qualifying  
13.28 facility from the utility side of the interconnection with the utility remaining responsible  
13.29 for its personnel.

13.30 (c) The uniform statewide form of contract shall be applied to all new and existing  
13.31 interconnections established between a utility and a qualifying facility having less than  
13.32 ~~40-kilowatt~~ 1,000-kilowatt capacity, except that existing contracts may remain in force  
13.33 until written notice of election that the uniform statewide contract form applies is given  
13.34 by either party to the other, with the notice being of the shortest time period permitted

14.1 under the existing contract for termination of the existing contract by either party, but  
14.2 not less than ten nor longer than 30 days.

14.3 Sec. 14. **[216B.164] VALUE OF SOLAR RATE.**

14.4 **Subdivision 1. Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "solar photovoltaic  
14.5 device" has the meaning given in section 216C.06, subdivision 16, and must meet the  
14.6 requirements of section 216C.25.

14.7 **Subd. 2. Applicability.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2014, this section shall apply to  
14.8 public utilities selling electricity at retail in Minnesota.

14.9 (b) Notwithstanding section 216B.164, an owner of a solar photovoltaic device may,  
14.10 with respect to the purchase price credited by a utility to an owner of a solar photovoltaic  
14.11 device, elect to be governed under this section or section 216B.164. All other provisions  
14.12 of section 216B.164, except those in subdivision 3 and subdivision 4, paragraphs (a)  
14.13 to (c), shall apply to an owner of a solar photovoltaic device electing to be governed  
14.14 under this section.

14.15 (c) This section does not apply to a utility that owns a solar photovoltaic device.

14.16 (d) An owner of a solar photovoltaic device governed under the net metering  
14.17 provisions of section 216B.164 prior to the effective date of the commission order issued  
14.18 under subdivision 9 and who elects to be governed under this section with respect to the  
14.19 purchase price credited by a utility must provide written notice of that election to the  
14.20 utility. The utility shall begin crediting the value of solar rate most recently approved by  
14.21 the commission to the owner of the solar photovoltaic device on the first day of the first  
14.22 month that begins at least 30 days after receipt of the notice.

14.23 (e) This section does not apply to a solar photovoltaic device whose capacity  
14.24 exceeds two megawatts.

14.25 **Subd. 3. Standby charge prohibited.** A utility may not apply a standby charge to  
14.26 a solar photovoltaic device governed under this section.

14.27 **Subd. 4. Standard contract.** The commission shall establish a statewide uniform  
14.28 form of contract that must be used by a purchasing utility and an owner of a solar  
14.29 photovoltaic device who elects to be governed under this section. The term of a contract  
14.30 entered into under this section must be no less than 20 years. The agreement must provide  
14.31 for credit of the value of solar rate as approved by the commission under this section,  
14.32 and must require the transfer of all renewable energy credits associated with the energy  
14.33 generated by the solar photovoltaic device to the purchasing utility.

14.34 **Subd. 5. Credits.** The utility interconnected to a solar photovoltaic device whose  
14.35 owner elects to be governed under this section shall purchase, throughout the term of the

15.1 contract, all energy and capacity made available by the owner of the solar photovoltaic  
15.2 device. All credits must be made at the value of solar rate approved by the commission  
15.3 under this section.

15.4 Subd. 6. Value of solar rate; guidance document. (a) By December 1, 2013, and  
15.5 each December 1 thereafter through 2048, the Department of Commerce shall develop  
15.6 a value of solar guidance document that contains step-by-step procedures that a utility  
15.7 subject to this section must use to calculate the utility's value of solar rate. The guidance  
15.8 document must specify a method a utility must use to calculate the value of all the  
15.9 components listed in paragraph (b), and may include formulas, discount rates, and other  
15.10 provisions governing how the value of solar rate must be calculated.

15.11 (b) The value of solar rate is expressed on a per kilowatt-hour basis, and consists of  
15.12 the following components:

15.13 (1) line loss savings equal to the value of the average amount of electricity lost  
15.14 through transmission and distribution when electricity is generated by the utility's nonsolar  
15.15 photovoltaic generators;

15.16 (2) transmission and distribution capacity savings equal to the value of delaying  
15.17 the need for capital investment in a utility's transmission and distribution system by  
15.18 contracting to purchase energy from solar photovoltaic devices;

15.19 (3) energy savings equal to the reduction in a utility's wholesale energy purchases  
15.20 and costs, based on the time of day the energy would have been generated, realized as a  
15.21 result of energy purchases from solar photovoltaic devices;

15.22 (4) generation capacity savings equal to the value of the benefit of the capacity  
15.23 added to the utility's system by solar photovoltaic devices;

15.24 (5) fuel price hedge value equal to the value of eliminating price uncertainty  
15.25 associated with the utility's purchases of fuel for electricity generation; and

15.26 (6) environmental benefits equal to the premium retail customers are willing to pay  
15.27 to consume energy produced from renewable resources.

15.28 (c) The department may, based on known and measurable evidence of the economic  
15.29 development benefits of solar electricity generation, including the net increase in local  
15.30 employment and taxes generated from the manufacture, assembly, installation, operation,  
15.31 and maintenance of solar photovoltaic devices, or other factors, incorporate additional  
15.32 amounts into the value of solar rate.

15.33 (d) The value of solar rate is equal to the present value of the future revenue streams  
15.34 of the value components calculated in paragraphs (b) and (c) over the useful life of a  
15.35 solar photovoltaic device.

16.1 (e) Prior to preparing the value of solar guidance document, the Department of  
16.2 Commerce shall obtain comments and recommendations from utilities, ratepayers, and  
16.3 other interested parties regarding the content of the value of solar guidance document.

16.4 (f) By January 1, 2015, and every January 1 thereafter through 2049, the  
16.5 commissioner shall make a determination as to whether the value of solar guidance  
16.6 document developed under this subdivision needs to be revised. In making that  
16.7 determination, the commissioner shall solicit comments and recommendations from  
16.8 interested parties in the same manner as required under paragraph (e). After considering  
16.9 the comments and recommendations, the commissioner may revise the value of solar  
16.10 guidance document.

16.11 Subd. 7. **Utilities to offer tariff.** By April 1, 2014, and each April 1 thereafter  
16.12 through 2049, a utility subject to this section shall file with the commission a value of  
16.13 solar tariff based on its calculation of the utility's value of solar rate that is consistent with  
16.14 the department's value of solar guidance document developed in subdivision 6. A utility  
16.15 must include in its filing its method of calculation for each component listed in subdivision  
16.16 6, paragraph (b). A utility filing a value of solar rate that differs from the value of solar  
16.17 rate filed by the utility for the previous year shall submit to the commission the reasons  
16.18 for and the methods it used to calculate the differences.

16.19 Subd. 8. **Value of solar rate; billing.** Notwithstanding section 216B.164, an owner  
16.20 of a solar photovoltaic device who elects to receive the value of solar rate for electricity  
16.21 generated by the solar photovoltaic device that is sold to a utility must be:

16.22 (1) charged by the utility the applicable rate schedule for sales to that class of  
16.23 customer for all electricity consumed by the customer;

16.24 (2) credited the value of solar rate by the utility for all electricity generated by the  
16.25 solar photovoltaic device;

16.26 (3) provided by the utility with a monthly bill that contains, in addition to the  
16.27 amounts in clauses (1) and (2), the net amount owed to the utility or net credit realized  
16.28 by the owner for that month and on a year-to-date basis. In the event that the customer  
16.29 has a positive balance after the 12-month cycle ending on the last day of February, that  
16.30 balance will be eliminated and the credit cycle will restart the following billing period  
16.31 beginning March 1; and

16.32 (4) provided by the utility with a meter that allows for the separate calculation of the  
16.33 amount of electricity consumed and generated at the property.

16.34 Subd. 9. **Commission review; approval.** (a) By July 1, 2014, and each July  
16.35 1 thereafter through 2049, the commission shall review the filing submitted under  
16.36 subdivision 7 and any comments on the filing made by the department or other interested



17.1 parties, and approve or modify each utility's value of solar tariff. The commission may,  
17.2 at its discretion, solicit additional comments, information, and recommendations from  
17.3 utilities, the department, and other interested parties.

17.4 (b) By July 1, 2014, and each January 1 thereafter through 2049, the commission  
17.5 shall, by order, direct all electric utilities subject to this section to begin crediting the value  
17.6 of solar rate most recently approved by the commission to:

17.7 (1) owners of solar photovoltaic devices who sign a standard contract under this  
17.8 section on or after the first day of the first month following the effective date of the  
17.9 order; and

17.10 (2) owners of solar photovoltaic devices who were governed under the net metering  
17.11 provisions of section 216B.164 prior to the effective date of the order and who elect to  
17.12 be governed under this section with respect to the purchase price credited by a utility by  
17.13 complying with the provisions of subdivision 2, paragraph (d).

17.14 (c) In no case shall the commission approve a value of solar rate under this section  
17.15 that is lower than the applicable retail rate of the subject utility.

17.16 Sec. 15. **[216B.1651] DEFINITIONS.**

17.17 Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of sections 216B.1651 to 216B.1654, the  
17.18 following definitions have the meanings given.

17.19 Subd. 2. **Community solar generating facility.** "Community solar generating  
17.20 facility" means a facility:

17.21 (1) that generates electricity by means of a solar photovoltaic device that has a  
17.22 capacity of less than two megawatts direct current nameplate;

17.23 (2) that is interconnected with a utility's distribution system under the jurisdiction  
17.24 of the commission;

17.25 (3) that is located in the electric service area of the utility with which it is  
17.26 interconnected;

17.27 (4) whose subscribers purchase, under long-term contract with the community solar  
17.28 generating facility, the right to consume the electricity generated from a specified portion  
17.29 of the facility's generating capacity;

17.30 (5) that is not owned by a utility; and

17.31 (6) that has at least two subscribers.

17.32 Subd. 3. **Facility manager.** "Facility manager" means an entity that manages a  
17.33 community solar generating facility for the benefit of subscribers and may, in addition,  
17.34 develop, construct, own, or operate the community solar generating facility. A facility  
17.35 manager may not be a utility, but may be:

18.1 (1) a person whose sole purpose is to beneficially own and operate a community  
18.2 solar generating facility;

18.3 (2) a Minnesota nonprofit corporation organized under chapter 317A;

18.4 (3) a Minnesota cooperative association organized under chapter 308A or 308B;

18.5 (4) a Minnesota political subdivision or local government, including but not limited  
18.6 to a county, statutory or home rule charter city, town, school district, public or private  
18.7 higher education institution, or any other local or regional governmental organization such  
18.8 as a board, commission, or association; or

18.9 (5) a tribal council.

18.10 Subd. 4. **Renewable energy credit.** "Renewable energy credit" has the meaning  
18.11 given in section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, paragraph (d).

18.12 Subd. 5. **Solar photovoltaic device.** "Solar photovoltaic device" has the meaning  
18.13 given in section 216C.06, subdivision 16.

18.14 Subd. 6. **Subscriber.** "Subscriber" means a retail customer of a utility who owns  
18.15 one or more subscriptions of a community solar generating facility interconnected with  
18.16 that utility. A facility manager may be a subscriber.

18.17 Subd. 7. **Subscription.** "Subscription" means a contract between a subscriber and a  
18.18 community solar generating facility that has a term of no less than 20 years and that  
18.19 provides to the subscriber a portion of the generation of the community solar generating  
18.20 facility and a corresponding proportion of the electricity generated by the community  
18.21 solar generating facility.

18.22 Subd. 8. **Utility.** "Utility" means a public utility as defined in section 216B.02,  
18.23 subdivision 4.

18.24 Sec. 16. **[216B.1652] SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

18.25 Subdivision 1. **Presale of subscriptions.** A community solar generating facility  
18.26 may not commence construction of the facility until contracts have been executed for  
18.27 subscriptions, excluding the subscription of the facility manager, that represent at least 80  
18.28 percent of the proposed nameplate capacity of the community solar generating facility.

18.29 Subd. 2. **Size.** (a) A subscription must be a portion of the community solar generating  
18.30 facility's nameplate capacity sized so as to produce no more than 120 percent of the annual  
18.31 average amount of electricity consumed over the previous three years at the site where the  
18.32 subscriber's meter is located. If the site is newly constructed, the subscription must be sized  
18.33 based on 120 percent of the average annual amount of electricity consumed by a facility of  
18.34 similar size and type in the utility's service area, as determined by the facility manager.

19.1 (b) A subscriber may not own one or more subscriptions whose total capacity  
19.2 exceeds the maximum capacity allowed for a qualifying facility subject to section  
19.3 216B.164, subdivision 3.

19.4 (c) A facility manager may not own subscriptions whose total capacity exceeds the  
19.5 maximum subscription size allowed under paragraph (a) plus ten percent of the remaining  
19.6 available nameplate capacity in the community solar generating facility, subject to the  
19.7 limit in paragraph (b).

19.8 (d) The maximum subscription size for a subscriber consuming electricity generated  
19.9 from an eligible energy technology, as defined in section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, at any  
19.10 time during the term of the subscriber's subscription, is the maximum subscription size  
19.11 allowed under paragraph (a) minus the nameplate capacity of the eligible energy technology  
19.12 device providing electricity to the subscriber, subject to the limit in paragraph (b).

19.13 Subd. 3. **Certification.** Prior to the sale of a subscription, a facility manager  
19.14 must provide certification to the subscriber signed by the facility manager under penalty  
19.15 of perjury:

19.16 (1) identifying the rate of insolation at the community solar generating facility;

19.17 (2) certifying that the solar photovoltaic devices employed by the community solar  
19.18 generating facility to generate electricity have an electrical energy degradation rate of no  
19.19 more than 0.5 percent annually; and

19.20 (3) certifying that the community solar generating facility is in full compliance with  
19.21 all applicable federal and state utility, securities, and tax laws.

19.22 Subd. 4. **On-site subscriber.** A subscriber who owns the property on which  
19.23 a community solar generating facility is located has no more rights with respect to  
19.24 subscription size or price than any other subscriber.

19.25 Subd. 5. **Subscription prices.** The price for a subscription to a community solar  
19.26 generating facility is not subject to regulation by the commission and is negotiated  
19.27 between the prospective subscriber and the facility manager.

19.28 Subd. 6. **Subscription transfer.** A subscriber that terminates the contract between  
19.29 the subscriber and the community solar generating facility must transfer the subscription  
19.30 to a person eligible to be a subscriber or to the facility manager at a price negotiated  
19.31 by both parties.

19.32 Subd. 7. **New subscribers.** Within 30 days of the execution of a contract between the  
19.33 community solar generating facility and a new subscriber, the facility manager shall submit  
19.34 the following information to the utility serving the community solar generating facility:

19.35 (1) the new subscriber's name, address, number of meters, and utility customer  
19.36 account; and

20.1 (2) the share of the community solar generating facility's nameplate capacity owned  
20.2 by the new subscriber.

20.3 Subd. 8. **Meter change.** A subscriber that moves to a different property served by  
20.4 the community solar generating facility from the property at which the subscriber resided  
20.5 at the time the contract between the subscriber and the community solar generating facility  
20.6 was executed, or that changes the number of meters attached to the subscriber's account,  
20.7 must notify the facility manager within 30 days of the change.

20.8 Subd. 9. **Renewable energy credits.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a  
20.9 subscriber owns the renewable energy credits associated with the electricity allocated to  
20.10 the subscriber's subscription. A utility or facility manager may purchase renewable energy  
20.11 credits under a contract with a subscriber.

20.12 (b) Renewable energy credits may not be assigned to a utility as a condition of entering  
20.13 into a contract or an interconnection agreement with a community solar generating facility.

20.14 Subd. 10. **Disputes.** The dispute resolution provisions available under section  
20.15 216B.164 shall be used to resolve disputes between a facility manager and the utility  
20.16 serving the community solar generating facility.

20.17 **Sec. 17. [216B.1653] DISPOSITION OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED.**

20.18 Subdivision 1. **Allocation.** (a) The total amount of electricity available for allocation  
20.19 to all subscribers of a community solar generating facility shall be determined by a  
20.20 production meter installed by the utility.

20.21 (b) The total amount of electricity available to a subscriber shall be the total amount  
20.22 of electricity available for allocation to all subscribers of a community solar generating  
20.23 facility prorated by a subscriber's subscription size in relation to the nameplate capacity of  
20.24 the community solar generating facility.

20.25 (c) A subscriber may not resell electricity governed by the subscriber's contract  
20.26 with a community solar generating facility.

20.27 (d) All electricity generated by a community solar generating facility that is not  
20.28 allocated to or consumed by subscribers must be sold to the utility interconnected with  
20.29 the community solar generating facility.

20.30 Subd. 2. **Utility purchases.** The utility to which the community solar generating  
20.31 facility is interconnected shall purchase all electricity generated by the community solar  
20.32 generating facility that is not consumed by subscribers. The price paid to the community  
20.33 solar generating facility by the utility is governed by section 216B.164 or any law that  
20.34 governs the price a utility must pay to purchase electricity from a solar photovoltaic device.

21.1 Subd. 3. **Interconnection.** The commission shall establish uniform fees for the  
21.2 interconnection of a community solar generating facility with a utility.

21.3 Subd. 4. **Nonutility status.** Notwithstanding section 216B.02, a community solar  
21.4 generating facility is not a public utility.

21.5 Sec. 18. **[216B.1654] BILLING.**

21.6 Subdivision 1. **Billing procedure.** A subscriber to a community solar generating  
21.7 facility must be:

21.8 (1) charged by the utility interconnected with the community solar generating  
21.9 facility the utility's applicable rate schedule for sales to that class of customer for all  
21.10 electricity consumed by the subscriber;

21.11 (2) paid by the utility the maximum rate allowable under section 216B.164, or  
21.12 any other law that may govern the price a utility must pay to purchase electricity from  
21.13 a solar photovoltaic device, for a portion of all electricity the utility purchases from  
21.14 the community solar generating facility that is equal to the ratio of the subscriber's  
21.15 subscription to the nameplate capacity of the community solar generating facility;

21.16 (3) provided by the utility with a monthly bill that contains, in addition to the  
21.17 amounts in clauses (1) and (2), the net amount owed to the utility or net credit realized by  
21.18 the owner for that month and on a year-to-date basis; and

21.19 (4) provided by the utility with a meter that allows for the separate calculation of the  
21.20 amount of electricity consumed and generated at the property.

21.21 Subd. 2. **Billing system.** The commission shall, by January 1, 2014, establish a  
21.22 uniform administrative system to credit the utility accounts of subscribers to a community  
21.23 solar generating facility. In determining the uniform administrative system, the  
21.24 commission shall solicit comments and recommendations from utilities, ratepayers, and  
21.25 other interested parties, and shall review commercially available administrative systems  
21.26 and administrative systems used in jurisdictions where entities similar to community  
21.27 solar generating facilities are operating.

21.28 Subd. 3. **Commission proceeding; rate adjustment.** By September 1, 2014, the  
21.29 commission shall initiate a proceeding to examine whether the rate paid by a utility to  
21.30 purchase energy from a community solar generating facility under section 216B.1653,  
21.31 subdivision 2, should be adjusted to reflect the actual fixed costs incurred by a utility to  
21.32 provide service to a community solar generating facility.

21.33 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

22.1 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) Unless otherwise specified in law, "eligible energy  
22.2 technology" means an energy technology that generates electricity from the following  
22.3 renewable energy sources:

22.4 (1) solar;

22.5 (2) wind;

22.6 (3) hydroelectric with a capacity of less than 100 megawatts;

22.7 (4) hydrogen, provided that after January 1, 2010, the hydrogen must be generated  
22.8 from the resources listed in this paragraph; or

22.9 (5) biomass, which includes, without limitation, landfill gas; an anaerobic digester  
22.10 system; the predominantly organic components of wastewater effluent, sludge, or related  
22.11 by-products from publicly owned treatment works, but not including incineration of  
22.12 wastewater sludge to produce electricity; and an energy recovery facility used to capture  
22.13 the heat value of mixed municipal solid waste or refuse-derived fuel from mixed municipal  
22.14 solid waste as a primary fuel.

22.15 (b) "Electric utility" means a public utility providing electric service, a generation  
22.16 and transmission cooperative electric association, a municipal power agency, or a power  
22.17 district.

22.18 (c) "Total retail electric sales" means the kilowatt-hours of electricity sold in a year  
22.19 by an electric utility to retail customers of the electric utility or to a distribution utility  
22.20 for distribution to the retail customers of the distribution utility. "Total retail electric  
22.21 sales" does not include the sale of hydroelectricity supplied by a federal power marketing  
22.22 administration or other federal agency, regardless of whether the sales are directly to a  
22.23 distribution utility or are made to a generation and transmission utility and pooled for  
22.24 further allocation to a distribution utility.

22.25 (d) "Renewable energy credit" means a certificate of proof, issued through the  
22.26 accounting system approved by the commission under subdivision 4, attesting that one  
22.27 unit of electricity was generated and delivered by an eligible energy technology, and  
22.28 including all renewable and environmental attributes associated with the production of  
22.29 electricity from the eligible energy technology.

22.30 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2a, is amended to  
22.31 read:

22.32 Subd. 2a. **Eligible energy technology standard.** (a) Except as provided in  
22.33 paragraph (b), each electric utility shall generate or procure sufficient electricity generated  
22.34 by an eligible energy technology to provide its retail customers in Minnesota, or the  
22.35 retail customers of a distribution utility to which the electric utility provides wholesale

23.1 electric service, so that at least the following standard percentages of the electric utility's  
 23.2 total retail electric sales to retail customers in Minnesota are generated by eligible energy  
 23.3 technologies by the end of the year indicated:

- |      |     |      |             |
|------|-----|------|-------------|
| 23.4 | (1) | 2012 | 12 percent  |
| 23.5 | (2) | 2016 | 17 percent  |
| 23.6 | (3) | 2020 | 20 percent  |
| 23.7 | (4) | 2025 | 25 percent. |

23.8 (b) An electric utility that owned a nuclear generating facility as of January 1, 2007,  
 23.9 must meet the requirements of this paragraph rather than paragraph (a). An electric utility  
 23.10 subject to this paragraph must generate or procure sufficient electricity generated by  
 23.11 an eligible energy technology to provide its retail customers in Minnesota or the retail  
 23.12 customer of a distribution utility to which the electric utility provides wholesale electric  
 23.13 service so that at least the following percentages of the electric utility's total retail electric  
 23.14 sales to retail customers in Minnesota are generated by eligible energy technologies by the  
 23.15 end of the year indicated:

- |       |     |      |             |
|-------|-----|------|-------------|
| 23.16 | (1) | 2010 | 15 percent  |
| 23.17 | (2) | 2012 | 18 percent  |
| 23.18 | (3) | 2016 | 25 percent  |
| 23.19 | (4) | 2020 | 30 percent. |

23.20 Of the 30 percent in 2020, at least 25 percent must be generated by solar energy  
 23.21 or wind energy conversion systems and the remaining five percent by other eligible  
 23.22 energy technology. Of the 25 percent that must be generated by wind or solar, no more  
 23.23 than one percent may be solar generated and the remaining 24 percent or greater must  
 23.24 be wind generated.

23.25 (c) By the end of 2030, each public utility shall generate or procure sufficient  
 23.26 electricity generated by an eligible energy technology to provide at least 40 percent of the  
 23.27 public utility's total retail electric sales to retail customers in Minnesota.

23.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

23.29 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2e, is amended to  
 23.30 read:

23.31 Subd. 2e. **Rate impact of standard compliance; report.** Each electric utility must  
 23.32 submit to the commission and the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over  
 23.33 energy policy a report containing an estimation of the rate impact of activities of the  
 23.34 electric utility necessary to comply with this section. In consultation with the Department  
 23.35 of Commerce, the commission shall determine a uniform reporting system to ensure that

24.1 individual utility reports are consistent and comparable, and shall, by order, require each  
 24.2 electric utility subject to this section to use that reporting system. The rate impact estimate  
 24.3 must be for wholesale rates and, if the electric utility makes retail sales, the estimate  
 24.4 shall also be for the impact on the electric utility's retail rates. Those activities include,  
 24.5 without limitation, energy purchases, generation facility acquisition and construction, and  
 24.6 transmission improvements. An initial report must be submitted within 150 days of May  
 24.7 28, 2011. After the initial report, a report must be updated and submitted as part of each  
 24.8 integrated resource plan or plan modification filed by the electric utility under section  
 24.9 216B.2422. The reporting obligation of an electric utility under this subdivision expires  
 24.10 December 31, 2025, for an electric utility subject to subdivision 2a, paragraph (a), and  
 24.11 December 31, 2020, for an electric utility subject to subdivision 2a, paragraph (b).

24.12 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1691, is amended by adding a  
 24.13 subdivision to read:

24.14 Subd. 2f. **Solar energy standard.** (a) In addition to the requirements of subdivision  
 24.15 2a, each public utility shall generate or procure sufficient electricity generated by solar  
 24.16 energy to serve its retail electricity customers in Minnesota so that at least the following  
 24.17 standard percentages of the utility's total retail electric sales to retail customers in  
 24.18 Minnesota are generated by solar energy by the end of the year indicated:

24.19	(1)	<u>2016</u>	<u>0.5 percent</u>
24.20	(2)	<u>2020</u>	<u>2.0 percent</u>
24.21	(3)	<u>2025</u>	<u>4.0 percent</u>

24.22 (b) The solar energy standard established in this subdivision is subject to all the  
 24.23 provisions of this section governing a utility's standard obligation under subdivision 2a.

24.24 (c) It is an energy goal of the state of Minnesota that by 2030, ten percent of the  
 24.25 retail electric sales in Minnesota be generated by solar energy.

24.26 (d) For the purposes of calculating the total retail electric sales of a public utility  
 24.27 under this subdivision and subdivision 2a, paragraph (c), there shall be excluded retail  
 24.28 electric sales to customers that are:

24.29 (1) an iron mining extraction and processing facility, including a scam mining  
 24.30 facility as defined in Minnesota Rules, part 6130.0100, subpart 16; or

24.31 (2) a paper mill, wood products manufacturer, sawmill, or oriented strand board  
 24.32 manufacturer.

24.33 Those customers may not have included in the rates charged to them by the public  
 24.34 utility any costs of satisfying the solar standard specified by this subdivision.



25.1 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1692, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

25.2 Subdivision 1. **Qualifying projects.** (a) Projects that may be approved for the  
25.3 emissions reduction-rate rider allowed in this section must:

25.4 (1) be installed on existing large electric generating power plants, as defined in  
25.5 section 216B.2421, subdivision 2, clause (1), that are located in the state and that are  
25.6 currently not subject to emissions limitations for new power plants under the federal Clean  
25.7 Air Act, United States Code, title 42, section 7401 et seq.;

25.8 (2) not increase the capacity of the existing electric generating power plant more  
25.9 than ten percent or more than 100 megawatts, whichever is greater; and

25.10 (3) result in the existing plant either:

25.11 (i) complying with applicable new source review standards under the federal Clean  
25.12 Air Act; or

25.13 (ii) emitting air contaminants at levels substantially lower than allowed for new  
25.14 facilities by the applicable new source performance standards under the federal Clean  
25.15 Air Act; or

25.16 (iii) reducing emissions from current levels at a unit to the lowest cost-effective level  
25.17 when, due to the age or condition of the generating unit, the public utility demonstrates  
25.18 that it would not be cost-effective to reduce emissions to the levels in item (i) or (ii).

25.19 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a project may be approved for the emission  
25.20 reduction rate rider allowed in this section if the project is to be installed on existing  
25.21 large electric generating power plants, as defined in section 216B.2421, subdivision 2,  
25.22 clause (1), that are located outside the state and are needed to comply with state or federal  
25.23 air quality standards, but only if the project has received an advance determination of  
25.24 prudence from the commission under section 216B.1695.

25.25 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1692, is amended by adding a  
25.26 subdivision to read:

25.27 Subd. 1a. **Exemption.** Subdivisions 2, 4, and 5, paragraph (c), clause (1), do not  
25.28 apply to projects qualifying under subdivision 1, paragraph (b).

25.29 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1692, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

25.30 Subd. 8. **Sunset.** This section is effective until December 31, ~~2015~~ 2020, and  
25.31 applies to plans, projects, and riders approved before that date and modifications made to  
25.32 them after that date.

25.33 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1695, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

26.1 Subd. 5. **Cost recovery.** The utility may begin recovery of costs that have been  
26.2 incurred by the utility in connection with implementation of the project in the next rate  
26.3 case following an advance determination of prudence or in a rider approved under section  
26.4 216B.1692. The commission shall review the costs incurred by the utility for the project.  
26.5 The utility must show that the project costs are reasonable and necessary, and demonstrate  
26.6 its efforts to ensure the lowest reasonable project costs. Notwithstanding the commission's  
26.7 prior determination of prudence, it may accept, modify, or reject any of the project costs.  
26.8 The commission may determine whether to require an allowance for funds used during  
26.9 construction offset.

26.10 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1695, is amended by adding a  
26.11 subdivision to read:

26.12 Subd. 5a. **Rate of return.** The return on investment in the rider shall be at the level  
26.13 approved by the commission in the public utility's most recently completed general rate  
26.14 case, unless the commission determines that a different rate of return is in the public interest.

26.15 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.23, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

26.16 Subd. 1a. **Authority to issue refund.** (a) On determining that a public utility has  
26.17 charged a rate in violation of this chapter, a commission rule, or a commission order, the  
26.18 commission, after conducting a proceeding, may require the public utility to refund to its  
26.19 customers, in a manner approved by the commission, any revenues the commission finds  
26.20 were collected as a result of the unlawful conduct. Any refund authorized by this section  
26.21 is permitted in addition to any remedies authorized by section 216B.16 or any other law  
26.22 governing rates. Exercising authority under this section does not preclude the commission  
26.23 from pursuing penalties under sections 216B.57 to 216B.61 for the same conduct.

26.24 (b) This section must not be construed as allowing:

26.25 (1) retroactive ratemaking;

26.26 (2) refunds based on claims that prior or current approved rates have been unjust,  
26.27 unreasonable, unreasonably preferential, discriminatory, insufficient, inequitable, or  
26.28 inconsistent in application to a class of customers; or

26.29 (3) refunds based on claims that approved rates have not encouraged energy  
26.30 conservation or renewable energy use, or have not furthered the goals of section 216B.164,  
26.31 216B.241, ~~or 216C.05,~~ or 216C.412.

26.32 (c) A refund under this subdivision does not apply to revenues collected more than  
26.33 six years before the date of the notice of the commission proceeding required under this  
26.34 subdivision.

27.1 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.241, subdivision 1e, is amended to read:

27.2 Subd. 1e. **Applied research and development grants.** (a) The commissioner  
27.3 may, by order, approve and make grants for applied research and development projects  
27.4 of general applicability that identify new technologies or strategies to maximize energy  
27.5 savings, improve the effectiveness of energy conservation programs, or document  
27.6 the carbon dioxide reductions from energy conservation programs. When approving  
27.7 projects, the commissioner shall consider proposals and comments from utilities and  
27.8 other interested parties. The commissioner may assess up to \$3,600,000 annually for the  
27.9 purposes of this subdivision. The assessments must be deposited in the state treasury  
27.10 and credited to the energy and conservation account created under subdivision 2a. An  
27.11 assessment made under this subdivision is not subject to the cap on assessments provided  
27.12 by section 216B.62, or any other law.

27.13 (b) The commissioner, as part of the assessment authorized under paragraph (a),  
27.14 shall annually assess and grant up to \$500,000 for the purpose of subdivision 9.

27.15 (c) The commissioner, as part of the assessment authorized under paragraph (a),  
27.16 shall annually assess \$500,000 per fiscal year for a grant to the partnership created in  
27.17 section 216C.385, subdivision 2. The grant must be used to exercise the powers and  
27.18 perform the duties specified in section 216C.385, subdivision 3.

27.19 (d) By February 15, 2014, and each February 15 thereafter, the commissioner shall  
27.20 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the legislature  
27.21 with primary jurisdiction over energy policy and energy finance on the assessments made  
27.22 under this subdivision for the previous calendar year and the use of the assessment. The  
27.23 report must clearly describe the activities supported by the assessment and the parties  
27.24 that engaged in those activities.

27.25 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.2411, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

27.26 Subd. 3. **Other provisions.** (a) Electricity generated by a facility constructed with  
27.27 funds provided under this section and using an eligible renewable energy source may be  
27.28 counted toward the renewable energy objectives in section 216B.1691, subject to the  
27.29 provisions of that section, except as provided in paragraph (c).

27.30 (b) Two or more entities may pool resources under this section to provide assistance  
27.31 jointly to proposed eligible renewable energy projects. The entities shall negotiate and  
27.32 agree among themselves for allocation of benefits associated with a project, such as the  
27.33 ability to count energy generated by a project toward a utility's renewable energy objectives  
27.34 under section 216B.1691, except as provided in paragraph (c). The entities shall provide a

28.1 summary of the allocation of benefits to the commissioner. A utility may spend funds under  
28.2 this section for projects in Minnesota that are outside the service territory of the utility.

28.3 (c) Electricity generated by a solar photovoltaic device constructed with funds  
28.4 provided under this section may be counted toward a public utility's solar energy standard  
28.5 under section 216B.1691, subdivision 2f.

28.6 Sec. 31. **[216C.412] SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTION INCENTIVE.**

28.7 Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** A public utility providing retail electric service to  
28.8 Minnesota customers is subject to the provisions of this section.

28.9 Subd. 2. **Incentive payment.** (a) Incentive payments may be made under this  
28.10 section only to an owner of a solar photovoltaic device who has:

28.11 (1) submitted to the public utility to which the solar photovoltaic device is  
28.12 interconnected, on a form prescribed by the public utility, an application to receive the  
28.13 incentive; and

28.14 (2) received from the public utility in writing a determination that the solar  
28.15 photovoltaic device qualifies for the incentive.

28.16 (b) A public utility shall make incentive payments under this section on a first-come,  
28.17 first-served basis. A public utility is not required to make aggregate incentive payments  
28.18 under this section in any one calendar year that exceed 1.33 percent of the public utility's  
28.19 gross operating revenues from retail sales of electric service provided to Minnesota  
28.20 customers during the previous calendar year.

28.21 (c) A public utility that owns a solar photovoltaic device is not eligible to receive  
28.22 incentive payments under this section.

28.23 (d) A solar photovoltaic device whose capacity exceeds two megawatts is ineligible  
28.24 to receive incentive payments under this section.

28.25 Subd. 3. **Eligibility window; payment duration.** (a) Payments may be made under  
28.26 this section only for electricity generated from a solar photovoltaic device that first begins  
28.27 generating electricity after January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2049.

28.28 (b) Payment of the incentive begins and runs consecutively from the date the solar  
28.29 photovoltaic device begins generating electricity.

28.30 (c) A public utility paying an incentive under this section must enter into a contract  
28.31 with an owner of a solar photovoltaic system under which the public utility agrees to make  
28.32 incentive payments for a period of 20 years.

28.33 (d) No payment may be made under this section for electricity generated after  
28.34 December 31, 2049.

29.1 Subd. 4. **Amount of payment.** (a) An incentive payment is based on the number of  
 29.2 kilowatt hours of electricity generated. The per-kilowatt-hour amount of the payment for  
 29.3 each category of qualified solar photovoltaic device listed below is equal to the applicable  
 29.4 reference price specified in this subdivision minus:

29.5 (1) the value of solar rate approved by the commissioner under section 216B.1641,  
 29.6 for owners of solar photovoltaic devices that have elected to have the public utility's  
 29.7 purchase price for electricity governed by that section; or

29.8 (2) the rate a public utility pays an owner of a solar photovoltaic device for excess  
 29.9 electricity generation under section 216B.164, for owners of solar photovoltaic devices  
 29.10 that have elected to have the public utility's purchase price for electricity governed by  
 29.11 that section.

	<u>Nameplate Capacity</u>	<u>Reference Price</u>
29.12	<u>Residential</u>	<u>20.4 cents per kilowatt-hour</u>
29.13		
29.14	<u>Nonresidential:</u>	
29.15	<u>Under 25 kilowatts</u>	<u>18.1 cents per kilowatt-hour</u>
29.16	<u>Rooftop, 25 kilowatts to 2</u>	
29.17	<u>megawatts</u>	<u>15.9 cents per kilowatt-hour</u>
29.18	<u>Ground-mounted, 25 kilowatts to</u>	
29.19	<u>2 megawatts</u>	<u>13.6 cents per kilowatt-hour</u>

29.20 (b) By January 1, 2015, and every January 1 thereafter through 2049, the  
 29.21 commissioner shall make a determination as to whether the reference price needs to be  
 29.22 adjusted in order to achieve the solar energy standard established in section 216B.1691,  
 29.23 subdivision 2f, at the lowest level of incentive payments. In making the determination,  
 29.24 the commissioner shall solicit comments and recommendations from public utilities,  
 29.25 ratepayers, and other interested parties regarding the calculation of the reference price.  
 29.26 After considering the comments and recommendations, the commissioner may adjust  
 29.27 the reference price.

29.28 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "reference price" means the lowest  
 29.29 per-kilowatt price for electricity generated by a qualified solar photovoltaic system the  
 29.30 commissioner determines is sufficient to provide an economic incentive that will result  
 29.31 in the development of aggregate capacity in this state to meet the solar energy standard  
 29.32 established in section 216B.1691, subdivision 2f.

29.33 Subd. 5. **Dispute resolution.** Disputes between an owner of a solar photovoltaic  
 29.34 device and a public utility paying an incentive under this section shall be resolved by  
 29.35 the commissioner of commerce.

29.36 Sec. 32. **[216C.413] DEFINITIONS.**

30.1 For the purposes of sections 216C.412 to 216C.417, the following terms have the  
 30.2 meanings given.

30.3 (a) "Made in Minnesota" means the manufacture in this state of solar photovoltaic  
 30.4 modules:

30.5 (1) at a manufacturing facility located in Minnesota that is registered and authorized  
 30.6 to manufacture and apply the UL 1703 certification mark to solar photovoltaic modules by  
 30.7 Underwriters Laboratory (UL), CSA International, Intertek, or an equivalent UL-approved  
 30.8 independent certification agency;

30.9 (2) that bear UL 1703 certification marks from UL, CSA International, Intertek, or  
 30.10 an equivalent UL-approved independent certification agency, which must be physically  
 30.11 applied to the modules at a manufacturing facility described in clause (1); and

30.12 (3) that are manufactured in Minnesota:

30.13 (i) by manufacturing processes that must include tabbing, stringing, and lamination;

30.14 or

30.15 (ii) by interconnecting low-voltage direct current photovoltaic elements that produce  
 30.16 the final useful photovoltaic output of the modules.

30.17 A solar photovoltaic module that is manufactured by attaching microinverters, direct  
 30.18 current optimizers, or other power electronics to a laminate or solar photovoltaic  
 30.19 module that has received UL 1703 certification marks outside Minnesota from UL, CSA  
 30.20 International, Intertek, or an equivalent UL-approved independent certification agency is  
 30.21 not "Made in Minnesota" under this paragraph.

30.22 (b) "Solar photovoltaic module" has the meaning given in section 116C.7791,  
 30.23 subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

30.24 **Sec. 33. [216C.414] "MADE IN MINNESOTA" PRODUCTION INCENTIVE**  
 30.25 **ACCOUNT.**

30.26 Subdivision 1. **Account establishment; management.** A "Made in Minnesota"  
 30.27 production incentive account is established as a separate account in the special revenue  
 30.28 fund in the state treasury. The commissioner shall credit to the account the amounts  
 30.29 collected under this section and appropriations and transfers to the account. Earnings, such  
 30.30 as interest, dividends, and any other earnings arising from account assets, must be credited  
 30.31 to the account. Funds remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year are not canceled  
 30.32 to the general fund but remain in the account. The commissioner shall manage the account.

30.33 Subd. 2. **Purpose.** The purpose of the account is to pay the "Made in Minnesota"  
 30.34 production incentive to owners of qualified solar photovoltaic devices, including related  
 30.35 administrative costs, under section 216C.417.

31.1 Subd. 3. **Transfer.** The public utility that contributes to the account established  
31.2 under section 116C.779 shall transfer from that account up to \$5,000,000 annually to  
31.3 the commissioner of commerce for deposit in the account established in subdivision 1  
31.4 for the purpose of paying the "Made in Minnesota" production incentive to owners of  
31.5 solar photovoltaic devices that qualify under section 216C.417. The commissioner of  
31.6 commerce shall request funds to be transferred by the public utility only to the extent  
31.7 necessary to fully fund the annual aggregate "Made in Minnesota" incentives paid to  
31.8 owners of solar photovoltaic devices.

31.9 Subd. 4. **Appropriation.** An amount sufficient to pay the "Made in Minnesota"  
31.10 production incentive under this section is annually appropriated from the account  
31.11 established under this section to the commissioner of commerce for the purposes of this  
31.12 section.

31.13 Sec. 34. [216C.415] "MADE IN MINNESOTA" SOLAR ENERGY  
31.14 PRODUCTION INCENTIVE; QUALIFICATION.

31.15 Subdivision 1. **Application.** A manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules seeking  
31.16 to qualify those modules as eligible to receive the "Made in Minnesota" solar energy  
31.17 production incentive must submit an application to the commissioner of commerce on a  
31.18 form prescribed by the commissioner. The application must contain:

31.19 (1) a technical description of the solar photovoltaic module and the processes used  
31.20 to manufacture it, excluding proprietary details;

31.21 (2) documentation that the solar photovoltaic module meets all the required  
31.22 applicable parts of the "Made in Minnesota" definition in section 216C.413, including  
31.23 evidence of the UL 1703 right to mark for all solar photovoltaic modules seeking to  
31.24 qualify as "Made in Minnesota";

31.25 (3) any additional nonproprietary information requested by the commissioner  
31.26 of commerce; and

31.27 (4) certification signed by the chief executive officer of the manufacturing company  
31.28 attesting to the truthfulness of the contents of the application and supporting materials  
31.29 under penalty of perjury.

31.30 Subd. 2. **Certification.** If the commissioner determines that a manufacturer's solar  
31.31 photovoltaic module meets the definition of "Made in Minnesota" in section 216C.413, the  
31.32 commissioner shall issue the manufacturer a "Made in Minnesota" certificate containing  
31.33 the name and model numbers of the certified solar photovoltaic modules and the date of  
31.34 certification. The commissioner must issue or deny the issuance of a certificate within 90

32.1 days of receipt of a completed application. A copy of the certificate must be provided to  
32.2 each purchaser of the solar photovoltaic module.

32.3 Subd. 3. **Revocation of certification.** The commissioner may revoke a certification  
32.4 of a module as "Made in Minnesota" if the commissioner finds that the module no longer  
32.5 meets the requirements to be certified. The revocation does not affect incentive payments  
32.6 awarded prior to the revocation.

32.7 Sec. 35. **[216C.416] "MADE IN MINNESOTA" SOLAR ENERGY**  
32.8 **PRODUCTION INCENTIVE.**

32.9 Subdivision 1. **Setting incentive.** Within 90 days of a module being certified as  
32.10 "Made in Minnesota," the commissioner of commerce shall set a solar energy production  
32.11 incentive amount for that solar photovoltaic module for the purpose of the incentive  
32.12 payment under section 216C.417. The incentive is a performance-based financial  
32.13 incentive expressed as a per kilowatt-hour amount. The amount shall be used for incentive  
32.14 applications approved in the year to which the incentive amount is applicable for the  
32.15 ten-year duration of the incentive payments. An incentive amount must be calculated for  
32.16 each module for each calendar year, through 2023.

32.17 Subd. 2. **Criteria for determining incentive amount.** (a) The commissioner shall  
32.18 set the incentive payment amount by determining the average amount of incentive payment  
32.19 required to allow an average owner of installed solar photovoltaic modules a reasonable  
32.20 return on their investment. In setting the incentive amount the commissioner shall consider:

32.21 (1) an estimate of the installed cost per kilowatt-direct current, based on the cost data  
32.22 supplied by the manufacturer in the application submitted under section 216C.415, and an  
32.23 estimate of the average installation cost based on a representative sample of Minnesota  
32.24 solar photovoltaic installed projects;

32.25 (2) the average insolation rate in Minnesota;

32.26 (3) an estimate of the decline in the generation efficiency of the solar photovoltaic  
32.27 modules over time;

32.28 (4) the rate paid by utilities to owners of solar photovoltaic modules under section  
32.29 216B.164 or other law;

32.30 (5) applicable federal tax incentives for installing solar photovoltaic modules; and

32.31 (6) the estimated levelized cost per kilowatt-hour generated.

32.32 (b) The commissioner shall annually, for incentive applications received in a year,  
32.33 revise each incentive amount based on the factors in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (6),  
32.34 general market conditions, and the availability of other incentives. In no case shall the  
32.35 "Made in Minnesota" incentive amount result in the "Made in Minnesota" incentives paid



33.1 exceeding 40 percent, net of average applicable taxes on the ten-year incentive payments,  
33.2 of the average historic installation cost per kilowatt. The commissioner may exceed the 40  
33.3 percent cap if the commissioner determines it is necessary to fully expend funds available  
33.4 for incentive payments in a particular year.

33.5 Subd. 3. **Metering of production.** A utility or association must, at the expense of a  
33.6 customer, provide a meter to measure the production of a solar photovoltaic module  
33.7 system that is approved to receive incentive payments. The utility or association must  
33.8 furnish the commissioner with information sufficient for the commissioner to determine  
33.9 the incentive payment. The information must be provided on a calendar year basis by no  
33.10 later than March 1. The commissioner shall provide an association or utility with forms to  
33.11 use to provide the production information. A customer must attest to the accuracy of the  
33.12 production information.

33.13 Subd. 4. **Payment due date.** Payments must be made no later than July 1 following  
33.14 the year of production.

33.15 Subd. 5. **Renewable energy credits.** Renewable energy credits associated with  
33.16 energy provided to a utility or association for which an incentive payment is made belong  
33.17 to the utility or association.

33.18 Sec. 36. **[216C.417] "MADE IN MINNESOTA" SOLAR ENERGY**  
33.19 **PRODUCTION INCENTIVE; PAYMENT.**

33.20 Subdivision 1. **Incentive payment.** Incentive payments may be made under this  
33.21 section only to an owner of grid-connected solar photovoltaic modules with a total  
33.22 nameplate capacity below 40-kilowatts direct current who:

33.23 (1) has submitted to the commissioner, on a form established by the commissioner,  
33.24 an application to receive the incentive that has been approved by the commissioner;

33.25 (2) has received a "Made in Minnesota" certificate under section 216C.415 for  
33.26 the module; and

33.27 (3) has installed on residential or commercial property solar photovoltaic modules  
33.28 that are generating electricity and has received a "Made in Minnesota" certificate under  
33.29 section 216C.415.

33.30 Subd. 2. **Application process.** Applications for an incentive payment must be  
33.31 received by the commissioner between January 1 and February 28. The commissioner  
33.32 shall by a random method approve the number of applications the commissioner  
33.33 reasonably determines will exhaust the funds available for payment for the ten-year period  
33.34 of incentive payments. Applications for residential and commercial installations shall be  
33.35 separately randomly approved. The random method adopted by the commissioner must

34.1 allow for the commissioner to achieve statewide geographic distribution of the kilowatt  
34.2 hours of payment if there are sufficient applications to achieve that distribution.

34.3 Subd. 3. **Commissioner approval of incentive application.** The commissioner  
34.4 must approve an application for an incentive for an owner to be eligible for incentive  
34.5 payments. The commissioner must not approve an application in a calendar year if the  
34.6 commissioner determines there will not be sufficient funding available to pay an incentive  
34.7 to the applicant for any portion of the ten-year duration of payment. The commissioner  
34.8 shall annually establish a cap on the cumulative capacity for a program year based on  
34.9 funds available and historic average installation costs. Receipt of an incentive is not  
34.10 an entitlement and payment need only be made from available funds in the "Made in  
34.11 Minnesota" solar production incentive account.

34.12 Subd. 4. **Eligibility window; payment duration.** (a) Payments may be made under  
34.13 this section only for electricity generated from new solar photovoltaic module installations  
34.14 that are commissioned between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2023.

34.15 (b) The payment eligibility window of the incentive begins and runs consecutively  
34.16 from the date the solar system is commissioned.

34.17 (c) An owner of solar photovoltaic modules may receive payments under this  
34.18 section for a particular module for a period of ten years provided that sufficient funds are  
34.19 available in the account.

34.20 (d) No payment may be made under this section for electricity generated after  
34.21 December 31, 2033.

34.22 (e) An owner of solar photovoltaic modules may not first begin to receive payments  
34.23 under this section after December 31, 2024.

34.24 Subd. 5. **Allocation of payments.** (a) If there are sufficient applications,  
34.25 approximately 50 percent of the incentive payment shall be for owners of eligible solar  
34.26 photovoltaic modules installed on residential property, and approximately 50 percent shall  
34.27 be for owners of eligible solar photovoltaic modules installed on commercial property.

34.28 (b) The commissioner shall endeavor to geographically distribute incentives paid  
34.29 under this section to owners of solar photovoltaic modules installed throughout the state.

34.30 (c) For purposes of this subdivision:

34.31 (1) "residential property" means residential real estate that is occupied and used as a  
34.32 homestead by its owner or by a renter and includes "multifamily housing development"  
34.33 as defined in section 462C.02, subdivision 5, except that residential property on which  
34.34 solar photovoltaic modules (i) whose capacity exceeds ten kilowatts is installed; or  
34.35 (ii) connected to a utility's distribution system and whose electricity is purchased by

35.1 several residents, each of whom own a share of the electricity generated, shall be deemed  
35.2 commercial property; and

35.3 (2) "commercial property" means real property on which is located a business,  
35.4 government, or nonprofit establishment.

35.5 Subd. 6. **Limitation.** An owner receiving an incentive payment under this section  
35.6 may not receive a rebate under section 116C.7791 for the same solar photovoltaic modules.

35.7 Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216C.436, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

35.8 Subd. 7. **Repayment.** An implementing entity that finances an energy improvement  
35.9 under this section must:

35.10 (1) secure payment with a lien against the benefited qualifying real property; and

35.11 (2) collect repayments as a special assessment as provided for in section 429.101  
35.12 or by charter, provided that special assessments may be made payable in up to 20 equal  
35.13 annual installments.

35.14 If the implementing entity is an authority, the local government that authorized  
35.15 the authority to act as implementing entity shall impose and collect special assessments  
35.16 necessary to pay debt service on bonds issued by the implementing entity under subdivision  
35.17 8, and shall transfer all collections of the assessments upon receipt to the authority.

35.18 Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216C.436, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

35.19 Subd. 8. **Bond issuance; repayment.** (a) An implementing entity may issue  
35.20 revenue bonds as provided in chapter 475 for the purposes of this section, provided the  
35.21 revenue bond must not be payable more than 20 years from the date of issuance.

35.22 (b) The bonds must be payable as to both principal and interest solely from the  
35.23 revenues from the assessments established in subdivision 7.

35.24 (c) No holder of bonds issued under this subdivision may compel any exercise of the  
35.25 taxing power of the implementing entity that issued the bonds to pay principal or interest  
35.26 on the bonds, and if the implementing entity is an authority, no holder of the bonds may  
35.27 compel any exercise of the taxing power of the local government. Bonds issued under  
35.28 this subdivision are not a debt or obligation of the issuer or any local government that  
35.29 issued them, nor is the payment of the bonds enforceable out of any money other than the  
35.30 revenue pledged to the payment of the bonds.

35.31 Sec. 39. Laws 2005, chapter 97, article 10, section 3, is amended to read:

35.32 Sec. 3. **SUNSET.**

35.33 Sections 1 and 2 shall expire on June 30, ~~2015~~ 2023.

36.1       Sec. 40. **STUDY OF POTENTIAL FOR SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS**  
36.2 **ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS.**

36.3       (a) The commissioner of commerce shall contract with an independent consultant  
36.4 selected through a request for proposal process to produce a report analyzing the potential  
36.5 for electricity generation resulting from the installation of solar photovoltaic devices on  
36.6 and adjacent to public buildings in this state. The study must:

36.7       (1) determine, for buildings identified under the process initiated in Laws 2001,  
36.8 chapter 212, article 1, section 3, commonly referred to as the B3 program, the amount  
36.9 of space available for the installation of solar photovoltaic devices and the maximum  
36.10 solar electricity generation potential; and

36.11       (2) utilize existing data on energy efficiency potential developed under the B3  
36.12 program and determine how investments in energy efficiency for these buildings could  
36.13 be combined with solar photovoltaic systems to enhance a building's overall energy  
36.14 efficiency. The analysis must include a schedule for installing solar photovoltaic systems  
36.15 on public buildings at a rate of four percent of available space per year and must prioritize  
36.16 installations that result in the largest benefits with the shortest payback periods.

36.17       (b) By January 1, 2014, the commissioner of commerce shall submit a copy of the  
36.18 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with  
36.19 primary jurisdiction over energy policy and state government finance.

36.20       (c) The commissioner of commerce shall assess an amount necessary under  
36.21 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, subdivision 1e, in addition to the assessment  
36.22 already authorized under that subdivision, for the purpose of completing the study  
36.23 described in this section.

36.24       Sec. 41. **TRANSMISSION FOR FUTURE RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

36.25       (a) The commission shall order all Minnesota electric utilities, as defined in  
36.26 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and all transmission  
36.27 companies, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.02, to study and develop plans  
36.28 for the transmission network enhancements necessary to support increasing the renewable  
36.29 energy standard established in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2a, to  
36.30 40 percent by 2030, while maintaining system reliability.

36.31       (b) The Minnesota electric utilities and transmission companies must complete the  
36.32 study work under the direction of the commissioner of commerce. Prior to the start of the  
36.33 study, the commissioner, in consultation with Minnesota electric utilities and transmission  
36.34 companies, shall appoint a technical review committee consisting of up to 15 individuals  
36.35 with experience and expertise in electric transmission system engineering, electric power

37.1 systems operations, and renewable energy generation technology to review the study's  
37.2 proposed methods and assumptions, ongoing work, and preliminary results.

37.3 (c) As part of the planning process, the Minnesota electric utilities and transmission  
37.4 companies must incorporate and build upon the analyses that have previously been done  
37.5 or that are in progress including but not limited to the 2006 Minnesota Wind Integration  
37.6 Study and ongoing work to address geographically dispersed development plans, the  
37.7 2007 Minnesota Transmission for Renewable Energy Standard Study, the 2008 and  
37.8 2009 Statewide Studies of Dispersed Renewable Generation, the 2009 Minnesota RES  
37.9 Update, Corridor, and Capacity Validation Studies, the 2010 Regional Generation Outlet  
37.10 Study, the 2011 Multi Value Project Portfolio Study, and recent and ongoing Midwest  
37.11 Independent Transmission System Operator transmission expansion planning work. The  
37.12 utilities and transmission companies shall collaborate with the Midwest Independent  
37.13 Transmission System Operator to optimize and integrate, to the extent possible,  
37.14 Minnesota's transmission plans with other regional considerations and to encourage the  
37.15 Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator to incorporate Minnesota's planning  
37.16 work into its transmission expansion future planning.

37.17 (d) The study must be completed and submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities  
37.18 Commission by November 1, 2014. The report shall include a description of the analyses  
37.19 that have been conducted and the results, including:

37.20 (1) a conceptual plan for transmission necessary for generation interconnection and  
37.21 delivery and for access to regional geographic diversity and regional supply and demand  
37.22 side flexibility; and

37.23 (2) identification and development of potential solutions to any critical issues  
37.24 encountered to support increasing the renewable energy standard to 40 percent by 2030  
37.25 while maintaining system reliability, as well as potential impacts and barriers of increasing  
37.26 the renewable energy standard to 45 percent and 50 percent.

37.27 **Sec. 42. VALUE OF ON-SITE ENERGY STORAGE STUDY.**

37.28 (a) The commissioner of commerce shall contract with an independent consultant  
37.29 selected through a request for proposal process to produce a report analyzing the potential  
37.30 costs and benefits of installing utility-managed, grid-connected energy storage devices in  
37.31 residential and commercial buildings in this state. The study must:

37.32 (1) estimate the potential value of on-site energy storage devices as a  
37.33 load-management tool to reduce costs for individual customers and for the utility, including  
37.34 but not limited to reductions in energy, particularly peaking, costs, and capacity costs;

38.1 (2) examine the interaction of energy storage devices with on-site solar photovoltaic  
38.2 devices; and

38.3 (3) analyze existing barriers to the installation of on-site energy storage devices by  
38.4 utilities, and examine strategies and design potential economic incentives to overcome  
38.5 those barriers.

38.6 (b) The commissioner of commerce shall assess an amount necessary under  
38.7 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, subdivision 1e, in addition to the assessment  
38.8 already authorized under that subdivision, for the purpose of completing the study  
38.9 described in this section.

38.10 (c) By January 1, 2014, the commissioner of commerce shall submit the study to  
38.11 the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction  
38.12 over energy policy and finance.

38.13 **Sec. 43. VALUE OF SOLAR THERMAL STUDY.**

38.14 (a) The commissioner of commerce shall contract with an independent consultant  
38.15 selected through a request for proposal process to produce a report analyzing the potential  
38.16 costs and benefits of expanding the installation of solar thermal projects, as defined in  
38.17 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.2411, subdivision 2, in residential and commercial  
38.18 buildings in this state. The study must examine the potential for solar thermal projects  
38.19 to reduce heating and cooling costs for individual customers and to reduce costs at the  
38.20 utility level as well. The study must also analyze existing barriers to the installation of  
38.21 on-site energy storage devices by utilities and examine strategies and design potential  
38.22 economic incentives to overcome those barriers. By January 1, 2014, the commissioner  
38.23 of commerce shall submit the study to the chairs and ranking minority members of the  
38.24 legislative committees with jurisdiction over energy policy and finance.

38.25 (b) The commissioner of commerce shall assess an amount necessary under  
38.26 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, subdivision 1e, in addition to the assessment  
38.27 already authorized under that subdivision, for the purpose of completing the study  
38.28 described in this section.

38.29 **Sec. 44. TRANSMISSION LINE; CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIRED AND**  
38.30 **EVIDENCE REQUIRED.**

38.31 (a) A high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kilovolts or more  
38.32 proposed to be located within a city in the metropolitan area as defined in Minnesota  
38.33 Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, for which a route permit application was filed  
38.34 between June 2011 and August 2011, and a certificate of need application was filed

39.1 between June 2012 and August 2012, to rebuild approximately eight miles of 69 kilovolt  
39.2 transmission with a high-voltage transmission line to meet local area distribution needs,  
39.3 must be approved in a certificate of need proceeding conducted under Minnesota Statutes,  
39.4 section 216B.243. The certificate of need may be approved only if the commission finds  
39.5 by clear and convincing evidence that there is no feasible, cost-effective, and available  
39.6 distribution level alternative to the transmission line.

39.7 (b) Further proceedings regarding the routing of a high-voltage transmission line  
39.8 described in this section shall be suspended until the Public Utilities Commission has  
39.9 made a determination that the transmission line is needed.

39.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and  
39.11 applies to route permits and certificate of need applications pending on or after that date.

39.12 Sec. 45. **SEVERABILITY.**

39.13 If any provision of this act is found to be unconstitutional and void, the remaining  
39.14 provisions of this act are valid.

39.15 Sec. 46. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

39.16 (a) \$212,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$100,000 in fiscal year 2015 are appropriated  
39.17 from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce for the purpose of carrying out  
39.18 the activities required in this act. It is assumed that an amount equal to this appropriation  
39.19 will be assessed by the commissioner of commerce under Minnesota Statutes, section  
39.20 216B.62, and deposited in the general fund. The base for this appropriation is \$80,000 in  
39.21 fiscal year 2016 and \$82,000 in fiscal year 2017.

39.22 (b) \$436,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$226,000 in fiscal year 2015 are appropriated  
39.23 from the general fund from the assessments on utilities to the Public Utilities Commission  
39.24 for the purpose of carrying out the activities required in this act. It is assumed that  
39.25 an amount equal to this appropriation will be assessed by the commission under  
39.26 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.62, and deposited in the general fund. The base for this  
39.27 appropriation is \$51,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$28,000 in fiscal year 2017.

39.28 Sec. 47. **REPEALER.**

39.29 Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.1637, is repealed.

39.30 Sec. 48. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

39.31 Unless otherwise specified, sections 1 to 47 are effective the day following final  
39.32 enactment.

**216B.1637 RECOVERY OF CERTAIN GREENHOUSE GAS INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS.**

A public utility that owns a nuclear power plant and a public utility furnishing gas service may file for recovery of investments and expenses associated with the replacement of cast iron natural gas distribution and service lines owned by the utility and to replace breakers that contain sulfur hexafluoride in order to reduce the risk of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Upon a finding that the projects are consistent with the public interest and do not impose excessive costs on customers, the commission shall provide timely recovery of the utility's investment and expenses on any approved projects through a rate adjustment mechanism similar to that provided for transmission projects under section 216B.16, subdivision 7b, paragraphs (b) to (d).