

MINNESOTA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

August 29, 2013

VIA E-FILING

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building
121 Seventh Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re: In the Matter of the Implementation of Solar Energy Standards Pursuant to 2013
Amendments to Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.1619.
Docket No. E999/CI/13-542**

Dear Dr. Haar:

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) represents over 2,300 businesses throughout the state of Minnesota. As the voice of Minnesota businesses on statewide policy issues, the Chamber’s main goal is to make Minnesota’s business environment competitive relative to other states and nations. Energy is a critical component to a successful business environment. Therefore, a focal point of the Chamber’s policy is ensuring Minnesota has competitively priced, reliable, and environmentally sound energy rates.

The Chamber recognizes that ambiguity exists over the definitions used to define the exemption contained in the 2013 Amendments to Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.1691 that among other things required a Solar Energy Standard (“SES”) in Minnesota. Therefore, the Chamber believes that it is important for the Public Utilities Commission to open a stakeholder

process where groups such as the utilities, the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources, and most importantly ratepayer advocates who will pay to implement the SES will have the opportunity to provide input on the Commission’s application of the statute. The Chamber believes that rushing this process without considering stakeholder input could have detrimental consequences to all ratepayers. The Chamber welcomes the opportunity to give input on the implementation of the SES to ensure this piece of legislation does not unduly harm the ratepayers.

DATED: August 29, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

/e/ Benjamin L. Gerber

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