

March 1, 2015

Dear PUC Commissioners,

I am from Northfield. My wife and I are early subscribers to a proposed Community Solar Garden that Northfield Area Community Solar LLC (NACS) initiated, and Minnesota Community Solar is the developer. I have also followed with great interest and concern the news of some large, Community Solar Garden projects being proposed in our area and elsewhere that link multiple gardens together.

As someone invested in promoting renewable energy to reduce the ill effects of global climate change as quickly as we can, I'm excited by the boom in solar energy the Community Solar Garden legislation has spurred. At the same time, I worry that those pursuing the large multi-array projects are seeking to force a loophole in the regulations in ways that undermine the value of "community" written into the Community Solar Garden regulations.

My wife and I decided to subscribe to the project we did because of the dedication NACS showed to this community and so we could bank on Minnesota Community Solar's dedication to those values and support a company based in the state and dedicated to using Minnesota labor and panels. That helps the state grow the solar industry from within.

We very much worry that the multi-array projects are not only working around what the legislation and regulations sought, but that they may misuse the size of their projects to elbow out the smaller, truly community-based projects in the approval process and possibly create problems for the grid.

Please make sure that the "community" is kept in the Community Solar Garden regulatory process as it goes forward and that smaller, community-based projects receive a fair chance to be successful. Thank you very much for your time and effort serving on Minnesota's Public Utility Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Matt Rohn