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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 2816

04/04/2019 Authored by Anderson
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; imposing a moratorium of construction and expansion of
1.3 community solar gardens outside the 11-county metropolitan area; requiring a
1.4 report.

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

1.6 Section 1. RURAL COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN MORATORIUM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Moratorium imposed. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
1.8 216B.1641, an existing or prospective solar garden owner is prohibited from constructing
1.9 a new community solar garden or expanding an existing community solar garden until
1.10 March 1 in the year after the date the commissioner of commerce submits the report under
1.11 subdivision 2 or July 1, 2021, whichever is later. This subdivision applies only to proposed
1.12 or existing community solar gardens located outside the 11-county metropolitan area, as
1.13 defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 115A.1314, subdivision 2.

1.14 Subd. 2. Impacts study. The commissioner of commerce must conduct a study that
1.15 measures the impact community solar gardens have on utility ratepayers and on the
1.16 communities where the community solar garden facilities are located. The study must
1.17 consider the impact of solar gardens on: (1) rates paid by customers of utilities participating
1.18 in the community solar garden program; (2) local economic conditions, including land
1.19 prices, job availability, and overall economic outcomes; (3) existing structures and land
1.20 uses, including residences, businesses, and farm land; (4) environmental factors; and (5)
1.21 other issues the commissioner deems important. The study must also consider and recommend
1.22 what constitutes an adequate setback or distance solar garden facilities must be located from
1.23 residences and businesses. Once completed, the report must be submitted to the house of

- 2.1 representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over energy, agriculture, and jobs
- 2.2 and economic development.