Date

Dear Legislator,

***As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to oppose the 2019 MidAmerican Energy solar monopoly bill, House File 669 and Senate File 583.*** This bill would allow MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy to establish discriminatory charges on customer-owned solar, reverse net metering, and pre-emptively restrict the right of all Iowans to generate renewable energy and to keep energy dollars local.

***The proposed “sunshine taxes” would make solar ownership economically not viable for many Iowa homes, farms, and businesses.*** This would not only kill many of Iowa’s over 800 solar contractor jobs, it would close the door on the unprecedented opportunity for solar energy prosperity in every single community, county, and legislative district in Iowa.

***The utilities’ claim that solar owners are subsidized by non-solar owners is false.*** Department of Energy studies show MidAmerican would need to see at least 50 times the current level of customer-owned solar before even considering any impact on rates, and that the effect of customer-owned solar “will likely remain negligible for the foreseeable future”.

***The Iowa Utilities Board also rejected this argument in 2017.*** The Board ordered both MidAmerican and Alliant to continue net metering, and to collect and report annual data in order to “inform future deliberations on rate and other related terms for customers with distributed generation.” The Legislature should refrain from attempting to legislate rates, and suggest the utilities take their argument back to the IUB if necessary.

***There is nothing currently stopping the investor-owned utilities from investing in large-scale solar.*** They can and should do so, but they should not be allowed to create discriminatory fees, charges, and grid rules that preclude and exclude Iowa homes, farms, and businesses from also investing in – and profiting from – solar energy.

***Please say no to protectionist policies granting MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy an effective monopoly on the sun, and yes to solar energy freedom for Iowans, and solar energy prosperity throughout our great state***.

Sincerely,