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**To the Nebraska Unicameral Judiciary Committee,**

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to the Judiciary Committee on LB137. MEEA is a nonpartisan nonprofit regional member-based organization that promotes energy efficiency to optimize energy generation, reduce consumption, create jobs and decrease carbon emissions in all Midwest communities. Our members include energy efficiency-related businesses, manufacturers, local governments, utilities, academic institutions and advocacy groups.

Energy efficiency is the least cost energy resource, making each kilowatt of energy generated more productive and reducing household energy usage. These efforts can lessen energy demand for the state's public power districts or for onsite energy generation, like residential solar panels mentioned in this bill. In [Nebraska Revised Statute 66-1001](#), legislative findings plainly state the importance of energy conservation, noting that "conservation is one of the most prudent means of meeting our need for dependable source of energy" and that "there is an urgent and continuing need for every person and business in the state to conserve energy." MEEA believes there is an equally prudent need for the Nebraska legislature to protect every Nebraskan's right to install and maintain energy efficient technologies in their homes. We appreciate the intent of Senator Dungan's legislation but would encourage the committee to consider how energy efficiency upgrades can also be protected under this bill.

[Nebraska Revised Statute 66-1004](#) later defines "Energy Conservation Measures" as technologies designed to reduce energy usage, grid demand and household energy costs. Most of these measures, like efficient appliances, water heaters, furnaces, air sealing and insulation, have no aesthetic impact on a home. We believe that every Nebraskan should be able to replace, maintain, install and operate energy-saving equipment. A homeowner's ability to conserve energy should not be impeded simply because their property is in a community with a homeowners' association.

Protecting homeowners' ability to conserve energy is critical as the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy prepares to roll out nearly \$100 million through the Home Energy Rebates program (\$91M) and [ONE RED pre-weatherization program](#) (\$4.1M). Collectively, these programs are designed to



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increase the accessibility and availability of energy conservation measures to all Nebraskans. The right to install these technologies must be protected for all households, including those under the purview of restrictive covenants.

In other Midwest states, like Michigan, legislators have found success passing bills that pair protections for energy conservation measures with protections for solar energy devices, prohibiting a homeowners' association from preventing the installation of, or charging any fee for, the utilization of either set of technologies. Pairing these protections strengthens a homeowner's access to affordable energy services, and the ability for Nebraska's Public Power Districts to meet unprecedented energy demand. There is now, more than ever, an urgent need to enhance energy conservation across the state. Protecting every homeowner's ability to install energy conservation measures is a common sense place to start.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment; please contact Clara Stein ([cstein@mwalliance.org](mailto:cstein@mwalliance.org)) with any questions.

Regards,

Paige Knutsen, Executive Director  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance