



March 14, 2023

Minnesota Senate  
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee  
Room 1150 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 2249, Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Dear Chair Frentz, Vice-Chair Xiong, Ranking Member Mathews, and Committee Members:

As an organization supporting energy solutions and technology deployment, I write today to express my strong support for SF 2249, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation. This proposal will establish an energy innovation program, which will strengthen Minnesota's energy and economic development future. This strategic investment will elevate Minnesota's competitiveness in a way that is good for business, workers, private investors, and the environment, all while bolstering our state's economy.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to our state's energy and economic future. Today, energy entrepreneurs and emerging businesses have insufficient resources and support to commercialize and scale innovative energy technologies. Next generation technologies will help achieve 100% Clean Energy by 2040 and a net-zero economy by 2050.

CEE currently manages the Minnesota Energy Technology Accelerator (META), a program filed with the Department of Commerce and funded by our state's utilities. META introduces commercially available technologies, and systematically reduces barriers for these technologies so that utilities can more quickly adopt them into their efficiency programs, and businesses and homeowners can more rapidly take advantage of them. However, there is still a need for Minnesota to support an ecosystem that incubates *new* companies developing *new* technology that could end up as the commercially available technology of tomorrow. SF 2249 does just that. Homegrown emerging technologies will not only help our state make the energy transition, but it will also help us create more jobs here in Minnesota.

I respectfully ask you to support SF 2249, the Minnesota Energy Alley Bill. This bill addresses an important gap in our state's emerging energy and tech ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Duffrin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Duffrin, President