



March 14, 2023

Minnesota Senate

Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee

RE: SF2249 Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Dear Chair Frentz, Vice Chair Xiong, Minority Lead Mathews and Committee Members,

The Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) serves producers, entrepreneurs and small businesses across Minnesota as they add value to agricultural products through new product and process innovations across the food, bioindustrial products and renewable energy sectors.

I write today to express support for SF2249, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation. This proposal will establish an energy innovation program to strengthen Minnesota's energy and economic development future. These efforts would be synergistic to AURI's efforts through programs such as its Renewable Energy Roundtable program that work with the Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges to identify, advance and commercialize biomass based renewable energy opportunities.

This investment in renewable energy for Minnesota is an investment in the next generation of solutions that will help the state achieve its 100% Clean Energy goal by 2040 and a net-zero economy by 2050.

At AURI we often see the barriers that halt or slow innovative solutions. The Minnesota Energy Alley can help remove those barriers and help partners and collaborators better leverage federal programs to accelerate opportunities to the commercial market.

AURI supports SF2249, the Minnesota Energy Alley Bill. This bill addresses a gap in our renewable energy ecosystem and creates synergies with AURI efforts, while advancing economic development opportunities that can leverage the surge in private and federal investments taking place currently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon M. Schlecht  
Executive Director