



March 13, 2023

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
State Office Building, Rm. 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 2524/Senate File 2249, Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Dear Chair Acomb, Vice Chair Kraft, Minority Lead Swedzinski, and Committee Members,

As a leading economic development organization representing five counties in Central Minnesota, I write today to express my strong support for HF2524/SF2249, 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 as a go-to region for advancing and transforming our energy ecosystem while spurring business support, workforce development, leveraging private investment, and 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. These are the next generation of solutions that will help achieve 100% Clean Energy by 2040 and a net-zero economy by 2050.

Minnesota is home to 58,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs have historically grown at a rate nearly twice as fast as overall state job growth. Importantly, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. We know that emerging technologies across our economic sectors will play a pivotal role in our state's energy transition that adds value to rural economic prosperity and environmental stewardship.

As an economic development professional, I ask you to support HF2524/SF2249, the Minnesota Energy Alley Bill. This bill addresses an important gap in our state's energy and tech ecosystem. Minnesota must act now in order to avoid missing out on a once-in-a-generation opportunity for business and economic development opportunities to leverage the surge in private and federal investments currently taking place. Finally, support of this bill is supporting Minnesota's transition to a clean energy economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cheryal Lee Hills'.

Cheryal Lee Hills, Executive Director

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