

**STATEMENT FOR THE
MINNESOTA SENATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
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BioMADE
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Chairman Champion and members of the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee, it was an honor to testify in front of your committee last year and I am pleased to share with you BioMADE's support for amending the Minnesota Forward Fund appropriation in the delete everything amendment to S.F. No. 5289.

For background, BioMADE is a Manufacturing Innovation Institute established by the Department of Defense in 2020 to enable bioindustrial manufacturing at all scales, develop technologies to enhance bioindustrial competitiveness, de-risk investment in relevant infrastructure, and expand the bioindustrial manufacturing workforce to realize the economic promise of industrial biotechnology in the United States. BioMADE has launched a national program to build 12 to 15 pilot-scale biomanufacturing facilities across the country with a current focus on Minnesota, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, and North Carolina. To fulfill its mission, including the advancement of this national initiative, \$434.7 million in federal funds have been obligated to BioMADE through its current contract with the Department of Defense, and with the strong support of Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04). The funds come with a non-federal cost share requirement of at least \$187 million (for financial details go to: https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_FA86502125028_5700)

BioMADE has already made a substantial investment in the state of Minnesota, including siting its headquarters in Minneapolis. BioMADE also demonstrates its strong commitment to investing in Minnesota by offering the state the unique opportunity to host our first pilot scale manufacturing project in the nation. In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds through the Minnesota Forward Fund "to match existing federal funds" to "construct and operate a bioindustrial manufacturing pilot innovation facility, biorefinery, or commercial campus utilizing agricultural feedstock." Thank you for this powerful statement of Minnesota's commitment to biomanufacturing.

Once the state funds were appropriated, BioMADE quickly initiated a comprehensive site selection process to identify the best location for the pilot scale facility and the economic development that it would bring. Alongside DEED, BioMADE conducted site visits to six potential locations in December 2023. Currently, BioMADE is gathering and assessing detailed information from four down selected sites to explore their feasibility. The sites are in North Branch, Cottage Grove, Rosemount, and Owatonna.

Unfortunately, our site selection process is now on hold until there is legislative action to clarify the ability of this project to acquire land for a pilot scale biomanufacturing facility and campus. At a minimum, an amendment to the 2023 session law appropriation eliminating the grant limit to local government (Minnesota Statute 116J.8752, subdivision 4b) will be required for BioMADE to make an investment in economic development in Minnesota. BioMADE's existing federal funds face significant constraints on key uses, including land acquisition. Therefore, utilizing funds provided by the Minnesota Forward Fund will be required for land acquisition, as well as normal activities like installing or

upgrading infrastructure. BioMADE's federal funding will be used for construction, site development, and capital equipment investments. By including the proposed amendment eliminating the grant limit to local governments in the committee's bill – which is language supported by DEED – BioMADE will be able to continue its site selection process and work toward making a significant investment in Minnesota.

BioMADE is appreciative of Chairman Champion and the committee's support and interest in leading this national biomanufacturing initiative and sharing in the economic development and job creation benefits that will result from our shared investment.

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