



April 2, 2025

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

RE: Senate File 761 Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

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

On behalf of the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX), I write today to express my strong support for SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation. APEX is a private sector-led business development engine established to promote sustainable growth in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin. APEX Investor-Members represent influential organizations with a vested interest in driving progress and economic vitality.

This important bill builds on impressive progress and impact the initiative delivers as it serves our region and state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. Already, this strategic investment by Minnesota's Legislature has elevated Minnesota's competitiveness and attractiveness to energy startups and new businesses, elevating our reputation as a go-to region for energy innovation, emerging technologies, and long-term partnerships. On average, energy accelerators catalyze \$6 of private investment for programmatic dollars spent.

As a partner to this initiative, located in Northeast Minnesota, we are well-positioned to help achieve our state's ambitious energy transformation goals, with Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, Duluth Superior Port infrastructure, critical raw materials, and nearly 22,000 students across academic institutions and technical colleges. We are regularly in discussion with a wide variety of project leaders looking to capitalize on these regional assets and build the economy of the future.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to our state's energy and economic development future. Minnesota is home to over 62,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. To sustain this growth, we must have mechanisms to attract, integrate, and build new technologies in our state. It is a competitive landscape, and strategic initiatives like Minnesota Energy Alley are making a difference in delivering solutions that ensure our energy system is more reliable, affordable, and resilient.

Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Supporting SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill, will be a step towards this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel A. Johnson".

Rachel Johnson  
President & CEO, APEX