



March 31, 2025

Minnesota Senate
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
Room 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Saint Paul, MN 55103

RE: Support for Senate File 761 – Minnesota Energy Alley Legislation

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

On behalf of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation (GSDC), I write to express our strong support for SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. As a private, regional economic development organization dedicated to advancing business investment, job creation, and innovation in Central Minnesota, we recognize the essential role this initiative plays in shaping our state's clean energy and economic future.

The Minnesota Energy Alley initiative is already demonstrating a significant return on investment—spurring over \$11 million in public and private funding from its initial \$1 million in support. Here in Greater St. Cloud, we see enormous potential for our manufacturers, energy entrepreneurs, and workforce to engage with this ecosystem. Programs like these not only bring resources and visibility to local startups but also open the door for real-world demonstration projects, which attract additional investment and catalyze long-term regional job growth.

With over 62,000 clean energy jobs in Minnesota—1 in 3 of which are in Greater Minnesota—supporting platforms that foster innovation, partnership, and talent development is critical. In our region, we are already exploring ways to leverage the Energy Alley model to connect new technologies with legacy manufacturing capabilities and world-class talent. As a community that thrives on public-private collaboration, we know the Energy Alley model aligns well with our goals to grow our clean tech, advanced manufacturing, and energy innovation sectors.

By supporting SF761, you are endorsing a proven, high-impact initiative that strengthens Minnesota's leadership in energy innovation and sustainability. We believe this is a smart and strategic investment in our state's energy infrastructure, economic development, and future workforce.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Schatz".

Joan Schatz
GSDC Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "NeTia Bauman".

NeTia Bauman
GSDC President & CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie Dingmann".

Leslie Dingmann
GSDC Business
Development Director