



April 2, 2025

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

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 Great Plains Institute, **I write today to express my strong support for SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation.** This important bill builds on the impressive progress and impact the initiative is delivering as it serves our region and state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. Already, this strategic investment by Minnesota's Legislature has advanced 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.

As a partner, we are proud to see that this successful initiative has already spurred business growth and workforce development while attracting private investment, which bolsters our state's economy. On average, energy accelerators catalyze \$6 of private investment for programmatic dollars spent. **To date, Minnesota Energy Alley has already helped its startups raise over \$11 million from the first \$1 million invested.**

The Great Plains Institute has dedicated nearly 30 years to cultivating a better energy system that is efficient, affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean through collaboration, identifying the best technologies, providing technical assistance, and stimulating critical markets. This has created numerous opportunities for our work at the edge of innovation and system transformation to intersect with Minnesota Energy Alley and the startup and innovator ecosystem in our region including opportunities for startups working in hydrogen, green ammonia, and other industrial innovations that are critical to our future energy system.

On behalf of the Great Plains Institute, I ask you to support SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. This legislation is a cost-effective investment, providing immediate and future benefits to our regional economy and the efficiency and effectiveness of our energy system. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rolf Nordstrom
President & CEO

