

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

April 2, 2025

RE: Senate File 761 Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

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

On behalf of Grid Catalyst, a Minnesota-based energy accelerator for startups, we are proud to write in support of the Minnesota Energy Alley initiative and share the tremendous results achieved in the first 15 months of programming in partnership with Clean Energy Economy Minnesota.

- We have supported **over 20 Minnesota-based businesses** in advancing their technologies toward commercialization, including eight earlier-stage MN startups in our PowerNorth Incubator, and five MN startups have participated in our demonstration program, with pilots funded through MN Energy Alley, alongside six companies attracted from other states.
- All projects are mobilized with local partners - including the Grand Rapids Public Utilities, Minnesota Power for a battery pilot in Long Prairie, a high-efficiency motor installed at Summit Brewing, a data center cooling project in St. Cloud, hosted by Alexandria-based Vaultas in partnership with Rochester-based Liquid Cool Solutions, and Rogers-based Flow Environmental Systems demonstrating their heat pump at the Local 455 Steamfitters/Pipefitters training facility.
- The investment into this initiative has already paid immense returns to Minnesota, **with over \$11 million attracted in public and private funding from the \$1 million in state investment**. Over \$9 million of that total was directed to Minnesota companies.

We have built incredible momentum in a very short time, making us confident that a second round of investment from the state will be the key to long-term success without additional state funds.

I am a proud Minnesotan, and it has been such an honor to represent our state in this work. Other states, as well as international partners, are asking how to replicate our success. And programs across the country are sending their startups here to commercialize their technology, putting us in an incredible position for economic development and as an energy innovation leader.

Thank you to the committee and our partners for the opportunity to share our early successes and support for what's next. Unfortunately, family travel schedules prevented us from joining the hearing, but we will make everyone available to answer questions and provide more information throughout the session.

  
**Nina Axelson**  
President