



April 2, 2025

Chair Nick Frentz  
Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee  
1150 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF761 (Xiong)—Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Chair Frentz,

On behalf of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MnCEF), I am writing to express our support of Sen. Xiong's SF761. Our organization champions a market-based, all-of-the-above approach to energy policy that enhances energy independence, creates jobs, and drives innovation across Minnesota. The Minnesota Energy Alley (MEA) initiative aligns perfectly with these values by fostering entrepreneurship and accelerating the deployment of diverse energy solutions that benefit our entire state.

The program's success to date demonstrates the power of strategic public investment to attract significant private capital. We're particularly impressed that MEA has already doubled its goal for follow-on funding. Of the \$11 million in public and private investment that cohort startups have attracted since program participation, \$9 million has gone to Minnesota-based companies. This represents a tremendous return on investment for Minnesota taxpayers and showcases how initial government support can catalyze market-driven growth.

As fiscal conservatives, we appreciate that MEA is on track to be self-sustaining through private investment after 2028, with over \$600,000 already secured for programming and two dedicated Minnesota funding mechanisms launching in 2025. This pathway to self-sufficiency exemplifies responsible public investment that transitions to market-supported operations.

The initiative's ambitious goals align with our vision for Minnesota's energy future. By 2028, MEA aims to support over 20 projects, assist hundreds of startups and entrepreneurs, expand student innovation pathways, connect statewide programming, and double industry participation. These achievements will strengthen Minnesota's competitiveness in the broader energy marketplace while creating high-quality jobs throughout our state.

Minnesota's energy sector has created over 62,000 jobs that are growing nearly five times faster than overall state job growth, with one-third located in Greater Minnesota. Minnesota Energy Alley helps ensure these opportunities continue to expand by attracting diverse energy technologies and entrepreneurs throughout our state.

MnCEF asks you to support SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. This legislation represents a prudent investment that leverages market forces to develop an all-of-the-above energy portfolio that will benefit Minnesota's economy, create jobs, and enhance our energy security and reliability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel E. Stuckey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Stuckey  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum