

March 28, 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,

As a leading organization representing economic development consulting and entrepreneur ecosystem navigation in Minnesota, I am writing to express my strong support for SF761, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation.

This important bill builds on the impressive progress and impact the initiative has delivered, serving our region and state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. This strategic investment by Minnesota's Legislature has already advanced our state'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.

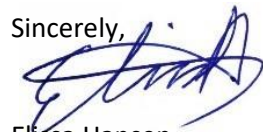
As a partner, we are proud to see that this successful initiative has already spurred business growth and workforce development while attracting private investment, which bolsters our state's economy. On average, energy accelerators catalyze \$6 of private investment for every programmatic dollar spent.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

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, growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, one in three 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.

On behalf of our economic development organization, I urge 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. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elissa Hansen
Northspan President & CEO