

March 31, 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 the interests of five counties in central Minnesota, and rural Minnesota as a whole, 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 delivers 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 to this initiative, 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.

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. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 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 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. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryal Lee Hills". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryal" being the most prominent.

Cheryal Lee Hills  
Executive Director, R5DC  
Region Five Development Commission