

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Natural Resources Research Institute

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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 University of Minnesota's Natural Resources Research Institute, 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 delivers in its service to our 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.

NRRI was established by the Minnesota legislature in 1983 as an applied science and engineering research laboratory to inform state citizens and decision-makers regarding the use and protection of Minnesota's natural resources, while leveraging the power of the University of Minnesota. The Institute employs over 140 scientists, engineers, technicians, staff, and students located in two semi-industrial research facilities. NRRI maintains strong partnerships with industry, agencies, governments, academia, and communities to deliver innovative tools and integrated solutions to fulfill its Legislative charter. We are a mission-driven, project-focused, applied research team working to create opportunities for natural resource stewardship.

From our experience, we recognize that great ideas need research and vetting, but they also need a pathway to commercialization, which is what excites us about Minnesota Energy Alley. Creating partnerships for pilots improves the chances that Minnesota innovation will make it to the marketplace. This is a critical step for transformational ideas, which depend on public-private partnerships like this initiative.

On behalf of NRRI, 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,



Executive Director, NRRI