

REPOWERED

Fair chances for people, planet, and technology.

Senator Bobby Jo Champion
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 6, 2025

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee:

Thank you for listening thoughtfully to Repowered's impact to individuals reentering society and to local employers hiring our graduates. **And** thank you even more for including us in the Senate omnibus bill. This direct appropriation would expand training capabilities and help us employ more participants in our program, leveraging the talents of a segment often overlooked by society.

I appreciated the opportunity to share Repowered's story this year. You heard from work readiness employee, Shane Pierson, who left prison last year after serving 30 years of a life sentence. He went in when he was 16 and never had a job. Repowered gave him the safe space to make mistakes, the support to grow, and the opportunity to succeed. He now leads our truck team, looks to go into HVAC work, and joyfully pays taxes.

I also shared the success we are having placing individuals graduating from our program. One employer, Joseph Long from Soldier trucking jubilantly emailed, "I could not be more impressed with all four of my new employees. Punctual, respectful, eager to learn, and most importantly no attitude. We are blessed to have a relationship with Repowered." Strong employer satisfaction like this demonstrates the quality of our program.

Thank you for hearing Shane Pierson's and my testimony and thank you for including us in the Senate omnibus bill.

May we not be judged by our weakest moments, but instead show strength when given a second chance and the opportunity for an expanding future.

Sincerely,



Repowered CEO

Cc: Committee Administrator, Tom Melton

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