



April 2, 2021

Representative Jamie Long, Chair  
Committee on Climate & Energy Finance & Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
517 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator David Senjem, Chair  
Committee on Energy & Utilities Finance & Policy  
Minnesota Senate  
95 University Ave. W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3401  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Long and Senjem:

The Midway Chamber of Commerce supports the Center for Microgrid Research at the University of St. Thomas and its funding request from the State of Minnesota's Renewable Development Account.

The Center attracts national research partners and has the potential to draw more research and industry collaborations to our state. Since its inception, the facility has worked with partners such as the Pacific Northwest National Lab, General Electric Global Research, and many national universities. In addition, the Center has recently been invited to join the national Grid-forming Technologies Research Consortium sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The funding will allow the Center to expand training to the Minnesota grid workforce as a true learning lab on new concepts through workshops and certifications. The funding will also allow St. Thomas to develop a two-year community college partnership program to provide students hands-on power systems research experience and training through paid summer internships.

We are fortunate to see up-close the great work from the St. Thomas, a Midway Chamber member and strong community members. We believe this additional support will further their reach and impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad Kulas".

Chad Kulas  
Executive Director