



May 16, 2022

Chair Noor, Chair Pratt, and members of the Jobs, Energy, and Commerce Conference Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Technology Association (MnTech) to voice our support for funding for tech workforce development initiatives as called for in the Governor's 2022 Supplemental Budget for Department of Employment and Economic Development.

MnTech is a coalition of more than 200 member companies united in building a stronger tech ecosystem and innovation economy in Minnesota. Minnesota's tech ecosystem cannot grow and thrive without strong and diverse tech talent pipelines. We were excited to see the additional funding called for by the Governor to prepare more youth for tech careers and equip unemployed and under-employed adults with the digital skills needed to succeed in an increasingly tech-driven economy. Specifically, we strongly supported the proposed \$15 million investment in the Tech Youth Training program; \$13 million investment in the Adult Tech Training Program for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and women but were disappointed to see that these funding levels were not reached in either the House or Senate bills.

We strongly encourage members of the Jobs, Energy, and Commerce Omnibus Bill Conference Committee to fund these important workforce development activities as part of the final Omnibus Bill to create more diverse pathways into tech careers. This funding will help ensure Minnesota companies can find the talent they need to remain nationally and internationally competitive today and in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of these important investments.

*Katie McClelland*

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