

March 18, 2026

Chair and Members
House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Informational Hearing on Artificial Intelligence and the Workforce

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Technology Association (MnTech) and our more than 300 member companies, we express our support of the workforce vision outlined by the University of Minnesota's Data Science and AI Hub. The Hub's mission to produce an AI-ready workforce, grow Minnesota industries, and advance responsible AI research, is directly aligned with the possibilities of and works towards building Minnesota's brightest tech future.

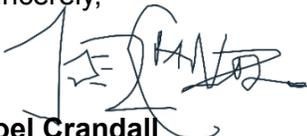
AI is transforming how Minnesotans work across every sector: agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, public services, and beyond. In Minnesota, we have an opportunity to develop and deploy agile, skills-based training models, and the AI Hub delivers exactly that: multi-tiered programming from high school data science camps and AI makerspaces to domain-specific professional training for legacy Minnesota employers. This is the kind of industry-education partnership that closes real talent gaps and positions Minnesota's workforce to its highest potential.

MnTech member companies consistently identify talent availability as their number-one challenge. What has changed is the breadth of roles that now require AI literacy. AI is already transforming how Minnesotans work in agriculture, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and the public sector. A farmer using predictive analytics to forecast inventory needs, a nurse working alongside AI-assisted sepsis detection, and a small business owner deploying AI for marketing strategy all need practical, accessible training.

MnTech supports a nationally aligned, forward-thinking framework for AI governance, one that allows room for ethical innovation so Minnesota remains competitive. The AI Hub's responsible AI framework, grounded in equity, transparency, and human oversight, complements this approach. We also want to thank, and further encourage the state to be an early adopter of AI tools, not just a regulator. The Hub is already partnering with Minnesota state government and convening cross-sector collaboration at scale, including its 2025 Women in AI and Data Science Conference, which drew over 800 participants.

MnTech and our members stand ready to partner with the AI Hub, the Legislature, and Minnesota's workforce system to ensure every Minnesotan has the opportunity to participate in this transformation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joel Crandall
President & CEO
Minnesota Technology Association (MnTech)