

## **State Representative Jeremy Kalin**

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### **NEWS COLUMN THANK YOU**

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Like anything else that you love, it's hard to believe when the end of it comes. I love Chisago County, and I have loved serving our community. To earn your trust, and to be your voice at the state Capitol, is an honor and a privilege for which I will always be grateful.

Regardless of who you voted for, I have always appreciated your spirit of partnership that has made so many accomplishments possible for Chisago County.

My first year as your state representative, I was lucky enough to put my real-world experience in architecture and energy efficiency to use in the legislature, writing the nation's strongest energy conservation law.

That first term, it was humbling to chief-author the most comprehensive overseas and military voting law in the country – legislation that increased overseas and military ballots cast by over 400 percent. It was an incredible honor to work with Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, the Pentagon, veterans and active duty military from Chisago County and across Minnesota.

At home, I was proud to work on the North Branch Bridge – literally decades in the making. Passing a comprehensive transportation bill, and working with community leaders, we were able to dreams a reality.

There's Ojiketa Park along Green Lake in Chisago City, where we secured 3,000 feet of shoreline and 68 acres of mature for our grandchildren's grandchildren.

The energy stimulus bill I helped pass is putting people to work all over the state, helping businesses save energy, hire people and invest in the long-term future of our state.

Now, more than ever, we as Minnesotans need to lean on each other – and trust in each other – to overcome the serious economic and fiscal crises facing our state. We must not let ideologues who purposely seek paralysis to get in the way of serving the people of this state.

President John F. Kennedy said it well:

"We shall need compromises in the days ahead...[T]hese will be, or should be, compromises of issues, not of principles. We can compromise our political positions, but not ourselves.

"Compromise does not mean cowardice. Indeed it is frequently the compromisers and conciliators who are faced with the severest tests of political courage as they oppose extremist views."

We need Kennedy's kind of leadership and political courage now, as ever. And although my time of public service has passed, you and I must now both trust and hold accountable our elected officials. We need to help them craft solutions focused on our shared vision of a more prosperous and more fair state.

Many of you have asked about my own future plans. My wife and I have moved to a new home closer to the hospitals where she delivers babies, and we are hoping to start our own family soon. I recently launched my clean energy and economic development consulting firm, Eutectics Consulting LLC, helping states, regions, and businesses compete in a global clean energy economy. No doubt that public service and community involvement will always be a part of my life as well.

It has been a unique privilege to serve our community, to know each of you, and fight on your behalf. Only two words can sum up how grateful I am for the trust you placed in me: thank you.

If you would like to reach me in the future, please call me at (612) 875-2546 or email me at [jeremy@kalin.com](mailto:jeremy@kalin.com). I look forward to staying in touch.

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