Rocky Gray

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Hiring Team

Dear Hiring Team,

I am excited to apply for the Engineering Manager role for Poe's Platform team. With over 12 years in software engineering and 5+ years in engineering leadership, I bring deep technical expertise in platform engineering combined with a passion for AI-driven developer productivity. My career has been focused on building foundational systems that empower engineering organizations—from developer tooling and CI/CD pipelines to distributed platforms serving internal and external customers.

Throughout my career, I have built platforms where engineers are the customers. At Reddit, I designed and led implementation of the first MCP server and RAG architecture for the Ads API platform, earning top recognition at the company-wide hackathon. I also drove developer velocity improvements by reducing build times, optimizing Kubernetes deployment orchestration, and advocating for smaller, safer changes. At Twitter, I led the development of contract-based testing for our public Ads API, which guarded against breaking changes from upstream teams and significantly increased confidence in platform evolution. Earlier at Capital One, I managed a dual-region Kubernetes platform serving 100+ internal applications at 1K TPS peak, while spearheading Terraform adoption and leading the infrastructure-as-code community of practice.

I am particularly drawn to this role because it aligns my extensive platform engineering experience with my growing passion for AI. I have been diving deeper into AI capabilities and am eager to leverage the latest AI tools to enhance team productivity—an area where I already have hands-on experience. The opportunity to work on Poe's platform team, building the foundation that enables rapid integration of cutting-edge AI models, is exactly where I want to focus my technical leadership.

Key highlights of my experience relevant to this role include:

- **AI & Developer Productivity** — designed MCP server and RAG systems, built AI tooling for local development, established myself as MCP subject matter expert.

- **CI/CD & Testing Frameworks** — reduced deployment times through Kubernetes optimization, built contract-based testing to prevent breaking changes, created developer tools that increased team velocity.

- **Infrastructure at Scale** — managed dual-region Kubernetes clusters, led IaC adoption with Terraform, built platforms serving 100+ applications.

- **Technical Leadership** — scaled teams from 5 to 15 engineers, promoted multiple ICs to Staff and EM, mentored engineers across multiple organizations.

- **Python & JavaScript** — built microservices in Node.js, developed vector databases in Python, full-stack experience across multiple languages and frameworks.

I would welcome the opportunity to bring my platform engineering expertise, AI experience, and passion for developer productivity to Poe. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rocky Gray Jr.

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