



SENT VIA E-MAIL

April 23, 2020

Chair Mahoney and Members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division:

On behalf of 1,200 retail storefronts across the state represented by the Minnesota Retailers Association, we would like to thank the Committee for hearing HF 1507 as amended for its focus on providing relief to Minnesota's businesses including community retailers.

We fully appreciate that the Small Business Emergency Loan in the DE amendment provides much needed support for Minnesota's restaurants, bars, and other places of public accommodation impacted specifically by Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08. We would ask that you please consider expanding eligibility for this important \$50 million loan program infusion from the Federal CARES Act to include businesses and retailers deemed non-essential under the stay-at-home-orders. Thousands of retailers across the state today are closed without any allowance for curbside or delivery options, creating a situation where there are no revenue opportunities. Access to this program would be meaningful as those retailers struggle to be viable in the weeks again in anticipation of changes in operating restrictions.

We are also supportive of Representative Robbins' amendment that would mirrors the Senate language. This amendment targets microbusinesses and allows all small businesses across the state impacted by COVID-19 access to relief grants. Having access and eligibility to programs such as the relief grants is very important for Minnesota retailers because it would provide immediate relief to those who need it.

On behalf of retailers, thank you for valuing retail across Minnesota and your leadership on these provisions.

*Savannah Sepic*

Savannah Sepic, government relations manager  
savannah@mnretail.org  
Savannah Sepic, government relations manager  
tel. (651) 227-6631, savannah@mnretail.org