



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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May 11, 2023

Dear Representative Stephenson, Senator Port and members of the SF73/HF100 Conference Committee,

The Minnesota Grocers Association thanks you for the opportunity to express our thoughts pertaining to the legalization of adult-use cannabis. The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association representing the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are tasked to support and represent industry while advancing the common good of our great state.

Rules Regarding Responsible Retailing

We encourage members of the committee to include common sense regulations around the responsible retailing of low-potency THC products. These products will be sold alongside other age-restricted products (i.e. alcohol, tobacco) and we believe rules regarding the sale of these products should mirror current laws managing responsible retailing of other age-restricted items. This would provide clarity and consistency to responsible retailers while aiding in training employees on the new law.

Consistency in Licensure of Low-Potency Products

This legislation would create a temporary licensing/endorsement requirement for food handler license holders who sell low-potency THC products. This would be temporarily overseen by the Department of Agriculture while the Office of Cannabis Management is established. The MGA asks that the eventual transition from the Department of Agriculture to the Office of Cannabis Management is made as seamless as possible for existing license holders. Adding additional steps and complications for businesses that will have been responsibly retailing these products for 2 years should be avoided.

Workplace Safety Concerns

The legalization of adult-use cannabis will create new challenges in the workplace. As an industry that is dependent on a robust and safe supply chain, it is critically important that employers have the ability to determine a drug policy that best fits their operational, safety, and culture needs - not simply a one-size-fits-all state-mandate. Federal workplace regulations require regular drug testing for jobs that operate heavy machinery and CDL licensed transportation drivers. This must be taken in to consideration for any legalization structure.

The MGA would like to thank Rep. Stephenson and Sen. Port for meeting with us regarding these items during session. We look forward to working with lawmakers and regulators to ensure that these products are retailed to Minnesotans in a safe and responsible matter.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pfuhl
President
Minnesota Grocers Association

The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association representing the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. Minnesota has a unique culture of hundreds of hometown grocers and convenience stores, many of whom are independent, multigenerational, and locally owned. The MGA is their state trade association, with over 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 members with over 1,300 locations statewide, as well as food producers, manufacturers, brokers, and wholesaler members. Our industry provides both union and non-union. The MGA is tasked to support and represent industry while advancing the common good of our great state.