



March 3, 2025

RE: HF 1439 – Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation grant funding provided for Carts to Careers

To the Leadership and Members of the Minnesota Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are writing to you to voice our concern regarding HF 1439,<sup>i</sup> which provides a one-time appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Minnesota Grocers Association Carts to Careers Initiative. We urge you to adopt language in HF 1439 that ensures the jobs created by the state's investment go to employers that provide family sustaining jobs with healthcare benefits along with no history of labor violations.

The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 663 and Local 1189 represent nearly 24,000 frontline professional workers and their families in grocery stores, meat processing, retail shops, and healthcare facilities across Minnesota. We strive to improve the lives of our members and of all working families by fighting for economic, political, and social justice in our workplaces and communities.

UFCW supports responsible economic development policies that adhere to strict labor standards. Responsible development includes safeguards for taxpayers, allowing governments to ensure that companies or entities that receive publicly financed incentives are living up to their responsibility to the community by creating good quality, family sustaining, jobs.

It is important that this grant adheres to economic development for employers that will provide safe workplaces, sustainable wages and benefits among others. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rena Wong  
President  
UFCW LOCAL 663

Adam Evenstad  
President  
UFCW LOCAL 1189

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF1439&ssn=0&y=2025>