



March 23, 2026

Co-Chair Anderson, Co-Chair Hansen, and Members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Grocers Association and the Minnesota Retailers, we write to express our strong support for HF3579 (Myers). Our organizations represent hundreds of grocery and retail businesses operating thousands of locations across Minnesota, all committed to serving their communities and helping ensure families have access to the food they need.

Despite these efforts, food insecurity remains a serious challenge in our state. Minnesota grocery retailers already play a significant role in addressing this need, **donating an estimated 45–48 million pounds of food each year**. Even so, outdated provisions in state law limit the ability of retailers to contribute additional safe, nutritious products to hunger relief efforts.

HF3579 offers a commonsense solution. By allowing eggs to be donated for up to 30 days beyond their quality assurance date—consistent with established food safety guidance and policies in other states—the bill removes an unnecessary barrier and expands the supply of high-demand, protein-rich food available to food banks and food shelves.

For grocers and retailers, this proposal represents a cost-free way to reduce avoidable food waste while strengthening partnerships with hunger relief organizations. It creates a clear pathway for getting safe, wholesome food into the hands of Minnesotans who need it, rather than discarding it.

We respectfully urge your support for HF3579.

Sincerely,

Steve Barthel
Director of Government Relations
Minnesota Grocers Association

Will Hagen
Vice President
Minnesota Retailers



March 20, 2026

Representative Paul Anderson
Chair, House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support – H.F. 3579, Egg Donation

Dear Co-Chair Anderson, Co-Chair Rick Hansen and Members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

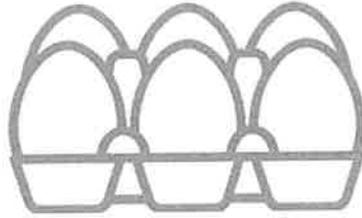
The Partnership on Waste and Energy supports H.F. 3579, authored by Rep. Myers, to allow eggs that are past the original quality assurance date to be donated to charitable food assistance programs. This is one easy step the legislature can take to keep edible, nutritious food out of the waste stream and put it on the tables of families struggling with tight budgets and food insecurity.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 1/3 of all available food never gets used or consumed. Wasted food unnecessarily takes up space in our disposal facilities, increases waste management costs and creates emissions that negatively affect our climate. The Partnership is working hard to prevent food waste and keep waste out of landfills. This is one more tool we need in our toolbox to meet state waste reduction and recycling mandates.

H.F. 3579 is a win for families on tight budgets and a win for the environment. The Partnership encourages the committee to pass this bill and prevent wasting good, usable food.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy



March 23, 2026

To: Members of the House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee

Subject: Broad coalition supports HF3579 to increase availability of eggs at food shelves

We write to express our strong support for HF3579 (Myers), a bill that would bring Minnesota's egg donation laws in line with most of the rest of the country by allowing eggs to be donated up to 30 days past their quality assurance date, when they are still safe to eat.

Currently, food retailers – who collectively account for roughly 30% of all food donated to food banks and food shelves – are unable to donate eggs to hunger-relief organizations once they are past their quality assurance date and removed from store shelves, despite the fact that the FDA guidelines state that eggs are food-safe for 3-5 weeks past that date. This leaves them with no choice but to throw out or compost these perfectly safe, in-demand food products.

Under the bill, retailers could donate those eggs directly to a charitable assistance organization – typically, either a food bank or a food shelf – who can quickly get them into the hands of Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity. The receiving organization would relabel the cartons to include a new “use by” date and make it clear that the eggs cannot be resold.

As you likely know, Minnesotans have experienced extreme price volatility in the egg market, which reached record highs of \$6-\$8/dozen early last year. While prices have come down significantly in recent months, eggs remain one of the most in-demand – and hardest to find – items at our food shelves, with shoppers reporting that they are available just 37% of the time.

Through this simple update to Minnesota's labeling laws retailers will be able donate more eggs to food banks and food shelves, reducing food waste while getting fresh, nutritious, and often locally laid eggs directly to our neighbors in need of emergency food assistance. Importantly, this can be done at limited cost to the state.

For these reasons, this legislation enjoys bipartisan support and is backed by a broad coalition that includes food retailers, anti-hunger organizations, food waste prevention advocates, public health officials, Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity, and more. With 1 in 5 families in Minnesota experiencing food insecurity, this is a simple, effective, and no-cost way to help our state's hunger relief network get closer to meeting the needs of our neighbors. We hope you will join us in our strong support of HF3579.

Sincerely,

(see next page)

A Place For Hope: Recovery and Wellness Center & Food Shelf, Moorhead
Anoka County Brotherhood Council Inc (ACBC), Anoka
Avon Food Shelf, Inc, Avon
Basic Needs Inc of South Washington County, Cottage Grove
Battle Lake Association of Senior Citizens, Battle Lake
Battle Lake Food Shelf, Battle Lake
Belle Plaine Food Shelf, Belle Plaine
Bemidji Community Food Shelf, Bemidji
Bemidji Community Table, Bemidji
Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Big Lake
Bountiful Basket Food Shelf, Chaska
Bridgepointe Community Church Food Pantry, Moorhead
Browns Valley Food Shelf, Browns Valley
Brownsville Area Food Shelf, Brownsville
CAER Food Shelf, Elk River
Care and Share of Crookston, Inc., Crookston
Caring For All Inc, Crystal
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, Saint Cloud
Center of Human Environment, Mahnomen
Channel One Regional Food Bank, Rochester
Churches United, Moorhead
Clear Waters Life Center, Clearbrook
Clearwater County Food Shelf, Bagley
Climax Parish Food Shelf, Climax
Coborn's, Rice
Community Emergency Service, Minneapolis
Community Pathways of Steele County, Owatonna
CROSS of Benton County, Foley
CROSS Services, Rogers
East Grand Forks Food Shelf, East Grand Forks
East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis
Ebenezer Church, Richfield
ESNS Mobile High Rise Food Shelf, Minneapolis
Family Pathways, North Branch
FB Area Food Shelf, Fertile
Fergus Falls Food Pantry, Elizabeth
Friends in Need Food Shelf, St. Paul Park
Foundation for Essential Needs, Minneapolis
Gather and Grow Food Shelf & Connection Center, Waconia & Watertown
Glyndon Community Food Pantry, Glyndon
Good in the 'Hood, Minneapolis
Grace Place Collaborative, Inc., Montrose
HannahRays Food and Clothing Pantry, Lake Bronson
Hanover Area Food Shelf, Hanover
Hastings Family Service, Hastings
Hearts and Hands Food Shelf, Glenwood
Heaven's Table Food Shelf, Fairmont
Hope for the Community, Blaine

ICA Food Shelf, Minnetonka
ICNA relief, St. Anthony
Interfaith Outreach, Plymouth
Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, Minneapolis
Kowalski's Companies, Woodbury
Knowlan's Super Markets/Festival Foods, Vadnais Heights
Kwik Trip, La Crosse
Lake of the Woods Food Shelf, Baudette
Living Waters Food Shelf, Sauk Rapids
Loaves and Fishes Fosston, Fosston
Lonsdale Area Food Shelf, Lonsdale
Mahtomedi Area Food Shelf, Mahtomedi
McLeod Food Shelf, Glencoe
Messiah Community Food Shelf/360 Communities, Lakeville
Mi CASA MN, Shakopee
Minnesota Grocers Association, St. Paul
Minnesota Retailers Association, Arden Hills
Monticello Help Center, Monticello
Nameless Coalition for the Homeless, Bemidji
Neighborhood Pantry, Inc, St. James
Neighbors, Inc., South St. Paul
NCBC Food Shelf, Minneapolis
New Creations Ministries COGIC, Minneapolis
New Life Treatment Center, Woodstock
New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf, New Ulm
New York Mills Area Food Shelf, New York Mills
North Country Food Bank, East Grand Forks
North St Paul Area Food Shelf, North St. Paul
Open Cupboard, Oakdale
Outreach Food Shelf, Alexandria
Pipestone County Food Shelf, Pipestone
Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo
PROP Food Shelf, Eden Prairie
Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, Mounds View
Redwood Area Food Shelf Inc, Redwood Falls
Roseau Area Food Shelf, Roseau
Sauk Centre Community Connection Food Shelf, Sauk Centre
Sebeka Area Food Shelf, Sebeka
Second Harvest Heartland, Brooklyn Park
Second Harvest Northland, Duluth
Springfield Area Food Shelf, Springfield
St. Kate's/CSJ Food Access Hub, St. Paul
Strandquist Food Shelf, Strandquist
The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County, New London
The Open Door, Eagan
Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf, Thief River Falls
Valley Outreach, Stillwater
VEAP, Bloomington
Verndale Area Food Shelf, Verndale
We Care Project, Morgan
WeCAN, Mound
White Bear Area Food Shelf, White Bear Lake