



## MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

533 St. Clair Ave. ♦ St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ TEL: 651-228-0973 ♦ 1-800-966-8352 ♦ FAX: 651-228-1949 ♦ [mga@mngrocers.com](mailto:mga@mngrocers.com)

For Immediate Release  
August 4, 2008

For More Information Contact:  
Jamie Pfuhl, President  
(651) 228-0973

### **Grocers Recognize Chris Coborn**

St. Paul – Chris Coborn, President/CEO of Coborn's Inc., was honored by the Minnesota Grocers Association with its 2008 Outstanding Grocer Award. This award is presented annually to a grocer who has successfully grown a company and is respected by industry peers. Additionally, the recipient must demonstrate contributions to the industry in the areas of government affairs, involvement in the MGA and community service. The award was presented on July 27, 2008 at the MGA Annual Convention in Brainerd, Minnesota which was attended by over 450 of Coborn's peers.

The legacy of Coborn's began in 1921 when Chester Coborn opened a single produce market in Sauk Rapids. Eventually, Chester added dry goods and other merchandise and, in 1936 opened a meat market. Chris started working at Coborn's as a bagger and stock clerk. For generations, his great-grandfather, grandfather and uncles as well as Chris' father, Dan, were part of the Coborn's business, so it was no surprise that Chris followed suit. He was instrumental in designing and launching a series of convenience stores named after his grandfather, Duke. He also directed activities of the warehouse/transportation division and spearheaded the development of Coborn's advertising department.

Today, Coborn's Inc. is a corporation of 88 grocery, pharmacy, convenience, liquor and retail stores in the Midwest. Success of the family-owned business comes from the leadership that embraces change, serves as an industry leader, remains keenly aware of customer needs, and is committed to growth. Coborn's Inc. has annual sales of \$900 million and employs over 6,200 people in the six states.

Coborn has a true passion for the legislative process both on a state and federal level and is a strong voice for the industry. Chris, his family and Coborn's Inc. have been exceptional supporters of the MGA. He sits on the board of the Minnesota Grocers Association and served as its chairman from 2004-2006.

His is tremendously active in the community and serves on several boards including St. Cloud Hospital, Stearns Bank, St. John's University, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce. Coborn's charitable contributions include supporting education through youth scholarships and financial contributions to local agencies.

Coborn leads by example and demands just as much out of himself as he does of others. He treats everybody with respect and professional courtesy. All of these traits and accomplishments exemplify why Coborn is the 2008 MGA Outstanding Grocer.

Chris and his wife, Becky, live in St. Cloud with their three children, Emily, Michael and Peter.

*The Minnesota Grocers Association is a state trade association representing the food retail industry since 1897. With over 200 retail members operating nearly 1,200 stores statewide, as well as 120 manufacturers and distributors, the MGA is truly the voice of the industry. Our member companies employ over 85,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. Focusing on the importance of the consumers, careers and communities, we actively advance the common interests of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.*

###