

MGA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



COMPETITIVENESS

Laws must change over time in order to allow

Minnesota businesses to be more efficient and competitive. The MGA supports a foundation that promotes a competitive marketplace, which allows the food industry to bring consumers the best service and prices. To fix that, government must:

- Promote a **free marketplace** that does not create **competitive disadvantages**
- Create feasible, logical **labor regulations**
- Re-evaluate antiquated **liquor laws**



ENERGY

Every day our industry is innovatively reducing energy consumption through conservation programs or energy efficient equipment. Alternative sources of energy are necessary, but conventional energy sources cannot be limited during development. It is imperative that this investment in the future is done with an eye on the present. Electrical power must stay **abundant and affordable** for businesses to continue moving forward.



FOOD CHOICE

Consumer choice is the basis for a free marketplace. Cumbersome mandates, taxes and restrictions on specific products at a grocery store will cost jobs and do nothing to improve health or protect consumers. There must be **parity and balance** when it comes to expanding food options within communities.



HEALTH CARE

Health care is one of the industry's largest expenses, from the smallest convenience store to the largest food manufacturer, so the food industry is concerned about the **cost and effectiveness of health care** as well as the systemic societal issues driving the debate.



SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental legislation comes in many different forms. There are bans on certain materials or unrealistic product stewardship frameworks. Promoting cumbersome, mandatory take-back programs with record-keeping places undue burdens on operations. **Industry provides voluntary positive environmental programs and proactively educates consumers on green practices.** Government must allow private sector programs and partnerships to develop and thrive instead of repeating the mistakes of the past.



TAXES & BUDGET

Businesses are making difficult but responsible choices and decisions. **Government must do the same.** The legislature needs to focus on solving pressing problems and building the infrastructure – physical, technological, and workforce – that the development of our new economy demands.



TRANSPORTATION

The MGA urges legislators to find a **balance in transportation funding between taxes and wise investment.** Efficiencies should be found within existing funds to meet our state's needs. The state's General Fund should be an option to invest in our transportation network since it benefits the entire state. Our transportation infrastructure is the key in getting goods from farm to market.



WORKFORCE ISSUES

Employees are the face of the industry. **Business operators have healthy relationships with employees, negotiating issues like wages and benefits either collectively or individually.** The government should not diminish that relationship with mandates to increase wages, benefits, and unnecessary regulations. Policies should focus on developing ways to encourage job growth and empower our workforce by devising solutions that develop quality, educated employees who are ready to step in and lead.

The MGA is a state trade association representing the food industry since 1897. We have over 200 retail members with nearly 1,100 stores statewide, as well as approximately 100 distributors and manufacturers. Our member companies employ over 125,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.