

NEWS RELEASE



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Minnesota Grocers Association Presents 2016 MGA Legislator of the Year Award to Rep. Pat Garofalo

St. Paul, MN – January 28, 2016 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) presented its 2016 MGA Legislator of the Year award to Representative Pat Garofalo (R - Farmington) at their annual Legislative Dinner on January 26, 2016, at the St. Paul Hotel in St. Paul, MN

Each year, the Minnesota Grocers Association acknowledges a lawmaker who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the food industry. The 2016 MGA Legislator of the Year award went to Representative Pat Garofalo (R - Farmington) for his work last session advocating for industry's priorities. His steadfast commitment to the food industry of Minnesota was unwavering.

As Chair of the Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Committee, he was a leader in promoting key labor and energy initiatives for industry. He included preemptive language that blocks local governments from creating their own minimum wage and employment mandates. Another favorable provision he championed, with MGA support, was a reduction in the unemployment insurance rate. These top MGA priority issues were included in his omnibus bill and passed off the House floor. They were in play until the final hours of the legislative session last year. In addition, he chief authored the bill to remove the inflator on minimum wage that goes into effect in 2018.

As a member of the House Taxes Committee, Rep. Garofalo worked to advance tax relief for industry, which included a multitude of proactive provisions from the MGA. All of these priorities passed out of the House with Rep. Garofalo's leadership. Unfortunately, an agreement was reached at the end of session to forgo a tax bill in 2015 in favor of waiting until 2016.

"Representative Garofalo supports common sense policies that create job growth and spur economic activity. He has shown extraordinary leadership in recognizing the need for competitive fairness, a level playing field for business, and supporting long term prosperity. A free marketplace that does not place undue burdens on local businesses helps our neighbors keep their shopping baskets full," said Jamie Pfuhl, President of the Minnesota Grocers Association. "The industry is honored to have a legislator with his vision on our side."

The Minnesota Grocers Association congratulates Representative Pat Garofalo on being named the 2016 Legislator of the Year.

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 retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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Picture: Current MGA Board Chairman Patrick Miner, Representative Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington), Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association.