

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MGA Announces 2016 Heroes of the Food Industry

St. Paul, MN – October 19, 2016 – The Minnesota Grocers Association is pleased to announce Representative Peggy Bennett (R-Albert Lea), Senator Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa), Senator David Hann (R-Eden Prairie), and Representative Dennis Smith (R-Maple Grove) as the 2016 Heroes of the Food Industry. They received the honor for leadership in advancing the food industry's priorities during the 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session.

"Our 2016 Heroes of the Food Industry displayed strong leadership in advocating for common sense policies that create job growth and spur economic activity. They truly are champions of a free marketplace, not placing undue burdens on local business, and helping our neighbors keep their shopping baskets full," said Jamie Pfuhl, President of the Minnesota Grocers Association. "This award is a testament to their vision, work ethic, and support of the industry from farm to fork."

Legislators were presented the award at a store in their legislative district. After the presentation, members discussed priority issues in the store to further understand the complex nature of the industry and the many challenges faced to remain viable in today's competitive marketplace.

"Our success at the capitol has a direct correlation to our member's proactive engagement," said Mike Karbo, Vice President Government Affairs of the Minnesota Grocers Association. "We thank our 2016 Heroes for their outstanding commitment to the food industry and the strength of their relationship with their local grocer."

To receive a Hero of the Food Industry Award, a legislator must have the highest rating on the MGA Legislative Scorecard. In addition, the legislator must distinguish him or herself by advocating strongly and effectively on a priority issue. Of the four legislators selected, one will be chosen to be the 2017 Minnesota Grocers Association Legislator of the Year.

The MGA is a state trade association representing the food industry since 1897. We have over 200 retail members serving over 1,100 locations statewide, as well as over 100 distributors, manufacturers, and wholesale partners. 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 of Minnesota as a civic leader and advocate.

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Picture 1: Bruce Mandler, Wells Marketplace Foods; Representative Peggy Bennett (R – Albert Lea); Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association.

Picture 2: Jeff Zinter, Cub Foods; Rep. Dennis Smith (R-Maple Grover); Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association.

Picture 3: Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association; Senator Paul Gazelka (R – Nisswa); Greg Zylka, Coborn's Superstore; House Legislative Candidate John Poston (R – Lake Shore).

Pictured 4: Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association; Senator David Hann (R – Eden Prairie), Gary Baldus, Lunds & Byerlys.