

# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Minnesota Grocers Association Presents 2017 MGA Legislator of the Year Award to Sen. Paul Gazelka**

St. Paul, MN – February 1, 2017 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) presented its 2017 MGA Legislator of the Year award to Senator Paul Gazelka (R - Nisswa) at its annual Legislative Dinner on January 17, 2017, at the St. Paul Hotel in St. Paul, MN.

Each year, the Minnesota Grocers Association acknowledges a lawmaker who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the retail food industry. The 2017 MGA Legislator of the Year award went to Senator Paul Gazelka for his work last session in advocating for industry's priorities. His steadfast commitment to the food industry of Minnesota by promoting proactive industry priorities was unwavering during the legislative session.

As a member of the Senate Taxes Committee, Senator Gazelka worked to advance tax relief for industry. He authored nearly all of industry's tax provisions such as a phase out of the State General Levy, a vendor collection allowance, estate tax reform, and exempting sales and use tax on capital equipment for prepared food. As a business owner, Senator Gazelka understands the impact legislation can have on a business's bottom-line and is truly a champion of industry. He continually provides the voice of reason on controversial issues, and we are glad to call him a friend.

"Senator Gazelka 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 Senator Paul Gazelka on being named the 2017 MGA 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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Pictured: MGA Board Chairman Mark Collier, Senator Paul Gazelka (R - Nisswa), Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association