

NEWS RELEASE



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Smith Named 2016 MGA Hero of the Food Industry

St. Paul, MN – October 27, 2016 – The Minnesota Grocers Association announced Representative Dennis Smith (R-Maple Grove) as a 2016 Hero of the Food Industry. Smith received the honor for his leadership in advancing the food industry's priorities during the 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session.

"Representative Smith has displayed strong leadership in advocating for common sense policies that create job growth and spur economic activity. He truly is a champion 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 his vision, work ethic, and support of the industry from farm to fork."

Smith was presented the award at Cub Foods in Maple Grove by store manager Jeff Zinter before discussing 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.

"The food industry is an important part of Minnesota's diverse economy, which provides one out of every twenty jobs in the state. Our community has an abundant network of job creators to the industry, and we appreciate their commitment to the local economy," said Smith. "It is an honored to receive this award from the Minnesota Grocers Association and I will continue to advocate for main street Minnesota businesses and all Minnesotans."

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: Jeff Zinter (Store manager, Cub Foods), Rep. Dennis Smith (R-Maple Grove), Jamie Pfuhl (President, Minnesota Grocers Association).