

# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Minnesota Grocers Association Holds Its Fourth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off

St Paul, MN – February 25, 2020 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) hosted its fourth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off on Thursday, February 20 at the Minnesota State Capitol. This event highlighted the Minnesota food industry and the impact it has on serving consumers, providing careers, and investing in its communities. The Bag-Off featured leadership from each of the four legislative caucuses, Senator Paul Anderson (R-Plymouth), House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt (R-Crown), Assistant Senate Minority Leader Jeff Hayden (D-Minneapolis), and House Speaker Melissa Hortman (D-Brooklyn Park).

Baggers truly exemplify the food industry's dedication to customer service. They are the people responsible for the last experience customers have in a store, and the contest provided an insider look at the importance of this role to industry. Additionally, the contest used the ever popular reusable bag, which demonstrates the food industry's commitment to consumer choice and the well-being of the communities we serve.

A panel of MGA members judged the four contestants based on speed, distribution of weight between the bags, proper bagging technique, along with style, attitude, and appearance. Department of Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley served as the official bag weigher. As an exciting addition this year, each contestant received a \$500 donation to a food charity of their choice to be presented in their district.

In a tight competition, this year's Bipartisan Bag-Off winner was House Speaker Hortman, who won with amazing weight distribution between her two reusable bags. She was presented a trophy and \$1,000 to donate to a food charity of her choice within her district.

The MGA was also pleased to donate \$5,000 on behalf of its 2019 Bag Hunger Campaign to Second Harvest Heartland, which was accepted by Allison O'Toole, CEO of Second Harvest Heartland. O'Toole expressed her thanks for the exceptional partnership throughout the years.

The MGA would like to extend a special thanks to the legislators, volunteers, MGA Board of Directors, and MC Tom Hauser for their time and making this event a success!

*The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are a legacy organization, having served the industry for over 120 years. We have over 300 retail, manufacturer, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 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.*

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Photo1: House Speaker Melissa Hortman with 2020 Bipartisan Bag-Off champion trophy

Photo2: House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt

Photo3: Senator Paul Anderson

Photo4: Assistant Senate Minority Leader Jeff Hayden

Photo 5: Jamie Pfuhl, MGA President, MGA Board Chair Kris Kowalski Christiansen, and MGA Council Board Chair Greg Hasper present Allison O'Toole, Second Harvest Heartland donation on behalf of the 2019 Bag Hunger Campaign.