



MGA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Competitiveness

Laws must change over time to allow Minnesota businesses to be more **efficient and viable**. The MGA supports a competitive marketplace that allows the food industry to bring consumers the best service and prices. To have that, government must promote a **free marketplace** that does not create competitive disadvantages and evolves to meet real-time consumer expectations.

Energy



Our industry is working to reduce energy consumption through conservation programs and increasingly energy efficient equipment. Alternative sources of energy are necessary, but conventional energy sources cannot be limited during development. It is imperative that this investment in the future is done with an eye on the present. Electrical power must stay **abundant and affordable** for businesses to continue moving forward.



Food Choice

Consumer choice is the basis for a free marketplace. Legislative policies must consider all the challenges of today's marketplace and their impact on customers' baskets. There must be **parity and balance** when it comes to expanding food options within communities. Additionally, government must address changing technologies and support private/public partnership to allow for the administration of government programs, such as SNAP and WIC.

Health Care



Health care is one of the industry's largest expenses, from the smallest convenience store to the largest food manufacturer. The food industry is concerned about the **cost and effectiveness**, as well as the systemic societal issues driving the debate. Government policies must promote quality access, choice, and affordable coverage.



Sustainability

The Food Industry of MN is at the forefront of reducing waste. Environmental legislation comes in many different forms. There are bans on certain materials or unrealistic product stewardship frameworks. Industry has enacted many **voluntary programs** that positively support sustainability initiatives. All policies must promote **consumer education** and ensure the state doesn't become an island. Implementation of strong private sector programs and partnerships should be allowed to **thrive and grow**.

Taxes & Budget



Businesses are making difficult but **responsible choices** and decisions as they move forward in the realities of today's world. Government must do the same. The legislature needs to focus on solving pressing problems and **building the infrastructure** – physical, technological, and workforce – that the development of our new economy demands.



Transportation

Our transportation infrastructure is the key to building a sustainable supply chain – from farm to fork. The MGA urges legislators to find a balance in **transportation funding** between taxes and **wise investment**. Efficiencies should be found to meet our state's needs. Regulatory changes need to be reflective of the challenges presented in a strategic and thoughtful manner.

Workforce



Our employees are the face of the industry. Business operators have healthy relationships with employees, negotiating issues like wages and benefits either collectively or individually. Acknowledging the current labor market, government should encourage strong employer/employee relationships. Policies should focus on developing ways to **encourage job growth** and **empower our workforce** by devising solutions that develop quality, educated employees who are ready to step in and lead.

The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, 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 retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.