

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jamie Pfuhl, President
Minnesota Grocers Association
(651) 228-0973
jpfuhl@mngrocers.com

Minnesota Grocers Association Holds Its Sixth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off

St Paul, MN – February 1, 2023 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) hosted its sixth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off on Tuesday, January 31 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 representation from each of the four legislative caucuses and a member from the governor's administration, House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth, Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, House Assistant Majority Leader Sydney Jordan, Senator Matt Klein, and MN Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen.

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 five contestants based on speed, weight distribution between the bags, proper bagging technique, style, attitude, and appearance. Department of Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold served as the official bag weigher. 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 Minority Leader Lisa Demuth. 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 \$2,500 on behalf of its 2022 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 Bag Hunger Campaign has raised over 43 million since 2008.

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 for 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 125 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.

###

Photo1: House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth with the 2023 Bipartisan Bag-Off champion trophy

Photo2: Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen

Photo3: House Assistant Majority Leader Sydney Jordan

Photo4: Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson

Photo 5: Senator Matt Klein

Photo 6: Minnesota Department of Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold