



Capitol Watch

Legislative Update From the Minnesota Grocers Association

Date: February 27, 2025

To: Jim Zupancich, Zup's Food Market

MGA 2025 Day on the Hill – A Success!

Thank you to all MGA members who joined us for the 2025 Day on the Hill yesterday! More than 70 attendees had the chance to meet with key figures from both the Executive and Legislative branches, including Governor Tim Walz, Secretary of State Steve Simon, Speaker of the House Lisa Demuth, Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, and many other legislators. We also crowned a new Bipartisan Bag-Off Champion, with Senator Johnson taking home this year's title.

After the Capitol activities, MGA members gathered at the University Club for a social hour and the Food PAC dinner. During the dinner, we were fortunate to hear from Speaker Lisa Demuth, who provided insights on the current legislative session. Rep. Liz Reyer was also honored as the MGA 2025 Legislator of the Year for her leadership as the Chief House author of the MGA's Carts to Careers bill. Additionally, Representative Dave Baker, Chair of the House Labor and Workforce Development Committee, spoke to the group. As a former grocer, Chair Baker understands the importance of crafting positive changes to the labor mandates that were placed on industry last biennium.

The MGA Government Relations Team also took the opportunity to highlight the importance of staying engaged in the legislative process and leveraging the resources available through the MGA. Member involvement is key to advancing MGA's work in St. Paul and supporting the industry's priorities. Thank you again to all attendees who made the day a success!



Support the Food PAC of Minnesota
Online Donations Now Accepted!

With the upgrade to the MGA website, PAC supporters can now make their contributions online. You can do so by scanning the QR code below or clicking [HERE](#). **Contributions are only accepted from personal funds.** Contact [Steve Barthel](#) with any questions.



Check out the MGA's refreshed website! <https://www.mngrocers.com/>

No Capitol Check Out Call Tomorrow – Previous Recordings Available

The MGA Government Relations Team invites you to join us for a discussion on the latest updates from St. Paul. Our bi-weekly Capitol Check Out calls will keep you informed on key developments from the 2025 legislative session. Each call lasts up to 30 minutes and will be recorded for easy sharing with your team.

Our next call will be **Friday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m.** These calls are now being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Contact [Steve Barthel](#) to receive the meeting link and recurring calendar invite.

February 14, 2025 Capitol Check Out Recording - [HERE](#)

January 31, 2025 Capitol Check Out Recording - [HERE](#)

January 17, 2025 Capitol Check Out Recording - [HERE](#)

2025 Legislative Sponsorship Available

[2025 Legislative Sponsorship Contracts](#) are available! Becoming an MGA Legislative Sponsor demonstrates that you are a committed partner in advancing the work of the MGA in St. Paul. Sponsors receive recognition throughout the year in all of our legislative updates, publications, and events. Thank you to those who have already submitted their sponsorships! If you have any questions about sponsorship, please contact [Steve Barthel](#).

Happy Retirement, Mom!

On a personal note, I want to wish a happy retirement to my wonderful mom, Michelle Barthel! Today marks her last day after over 31 years at Haug Companies Cub Foods stores.

I hope your retirement is filled with relaxation, travel, and lots of quality moments with the grandkids. Your dedication—working those 2 a.m. bookkeeping shifts for years so you could be there to get us off bus or attend our games—has always inspired me. Your commitment to family and your kindness toward others sets a shining example for all of us. We're so excited to see what this next chapter holds for you. Congratulations, Mom!

[Patrick Garofalo](#), President and [Steve Barthel](#), Director of Government Relations, are here to assist. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

DISCLAIMER: *This information is provided by MGA as a service to its members. This information does not constitute legal advice. As legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case and laws and regulations are frequently changing, nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of counsel in the relevant jurisdiction.*



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