

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Grocers Association Holds Its Eighth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off

St. Paul, MN – February 27, 2025 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) hosted its eighth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off on Wednesday, February 26 at the Minnesota State Capitol. This event highlighted the Minnesota food industry and its impact 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; Speaker of the House Lisa Demuth, Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Grant Hauschild, Representative Liz Reyer, and Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families Commissioner Tikki Brown.

Baggers truly exemplify the food industry’s dedication to customer service. They are 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. Special guest judge Brett Willhite, Executive Director of Weights and Measures at the Minnesota Department of Commerce oversaw the scales. Each contestant received a \$500 donation to be presented to a food charity in their district.

In a tight competition, this year’s Bipartisan Bag-Off winner was Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson. He was presented a trophy and \$1,000 to donate to a food charity of her choice within his district.

The MGA was also pleased to donate \$2,000 on behalf of its 2024 Bag Hunger Campaign to Second Harvest Heartland, which was accepted by Sarah Moberg, Chief Operating Officer of Second Harvest Heartland. Cooper expressed her thanks for the exceptional partnership throughout the years. The MGA Bag Hunger Campaign has raised over \$45 million since 2008.

The MGA would like to extend a special thanks to the legislators, volunteers, and MGA Board of Directors for their time and for making this event a huge 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.

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Photo 1: Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson with the 2025 Bipartisan Bag-Off Champion trophy

Photo 2: MGA Bipartisan Bag-Off participants

Photo 3: Brett Willhite, Executive Director of Weights and Measures at the MN Department of Commerce

Photo 4: Patrick Garofalo, MGA President and Sarah Moberg of Second Harvest Heartland