

Chair Klein and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate File 1868. This bill would repeal a vital protection for businesses against predatory pricing. The current law makes sure that small businesses like ours are able to compete in a fair and open market.

I understand the supporters of the bill argue that this is “price fixing”; however, in actuality, the current law has no effect on the market price. It provides a way for marketers like us to prove and stop predatory pricing. Although the intent of this bill is not to harm small mom-and-pop operators, its passage would undoubtedly have that effect.

In September 2022, the president said: “My message is simple. To the companies running gas stations and setting those prices at the pump: Bring down the prices you’re charging at the pump to reflect the cost you pay for the product.” It is insulting that the blame would be placed on the businesses at the end of the supply chain that profit the least. The real causes of the price increases are geopolitical and regulatory in nature.

Please reject Senate File 1868 and make sure that small businesses are protected from big box out-of-state businesses that engage in predatory pricing. Please stand up for small businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Feneis

St. Cloud, MN