



March 2, 2023

Chair Matt Klein  
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
RE: Senate File 1868  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2105  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klein,

Thank you and the Members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in regards to Senate File 1868.

My name is David Larson, and I am the Government Affairs Director for Cooperative Network. Our members are owned by millions of residents throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and include member-owned farm supply, dairy marketing, livestock marketing, financial, health care, mutual insurance, processing, electric utility, housing, food, and worker-owned cooperatives, among others.

We appreciate Senator Rasmusson and his co-authors for bringing this important topic in front of the Committee, however, we do have concerns about the unintended consequences of this bill. This law originally took effect in 2001 to protect smaller retailers from larger retailers who could sell gas far below cost in order to attract more customers to their location.

Cooperative Network urges the Minnesota Legislature to maintain the statutory prohibition against selling motor fuels below cost. Without the protection of this law, many motor fuel retailers would be threatened across the state. Consumers would end up with less competition in the marketplace and eventually may be hurt by higher motor fuel prices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Larson  
Government Affairs Director  
Cooperative Network

CC: Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee