



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

1360 Energy Park Drive, Suite #110 • St. Paul, MN 55108 • 651-228-0973 • 1-800-966-8352 • www.mngrocers.com

January 27, 2023

Senator Jennifer McEwen
Chair, Senate Labor Committee
3217 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator McEwen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Grocers Association, we would like to voice our support of Nicole Blissenbach for confirmation as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). As an industry that is very labor intensive, it is critically important that we have a positive working relationship with the department. In her time as Interim Commissioner Blissenbach has been incredibly accessible, responding to our concerns respectfully while taking the time to understand how our industry operates. It has been a pleasure to work with her and her team.

Blissenbach's ability to lead the department was particularly evident as the department was tasked to execute the Frontline Workers Pay. Blissenbach and her team developed and implemented an easy-to-use application process that ultimately distributed payments to over a million Minnesotans. This was an incredible accomplishment.

Intern Commissioner Blissenbach's willingness to support the industry and our membership have been positive. She is a leader who seeks input from stakeholders to inform her decision-making process. She is pleasant and approachable, and aims to achieve positive results for her constituencies, businesses, workers, youth employees, contractors, licensees, and apprentices. She has been receptive and willing to find resolutions that meet the objective of the agency while being respectful of barriers. There has been a consistent commitment to providing access to all department tools for education and best practices.

Commissioner Blissenbach represents the thoughtful, steadfast leadership that the state needs for its successful future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Pfuhl
President