



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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Chair Putnam, Ranking Minority Member Westrom, and Members of the Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee:

The Minnesota Grocers Association thanks you for the opportunity to express our support for SF4000, which would extend the expiration of Food and Safety Defense Task Force to 2037.

The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association representing the food industry of Minnesota. Minnesota has a unique culture of hundreds of hometown grocers and convenience stores, many of whom are independent, multi-generational, and locally owned. We have over 300 members with over 1,300 locations statewide, which includes food producers, manufacturers, brokers, and wholesaler members. Our industry provides over 150,000 jobs in the state – both union and non-union. The retail food industry is the backbone of Minnesota's prosperity, providing 1 out of every 20 jobs in our state.

Our members are deeply committed to the communities we serve. That commitment starts with food safety. From farm-to-fork, our members take pride in providing safe nutritious food for their neighbors. As a governor-appointed member of the Food Safety and Defense Task Force, the MGA has collaborated with others who work in the food safety space and can attest to the good work of this dedicated group of experts.

By promoting safety standards and education, and proactively addressing issues related to foodborne illnesses, the Food Safety and Defense Task Force helps ensure that all Minnesotans have access to safe, nutritious foods. The Food Safety and Defense Task Force is an asset to Minnesotans and the entire food industry.

We strongly support SF4000 and the extension of the task force and thank Senator Gustafson for carrying the legislation.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Pfuhl
President
Minnesota Grocers Association