February 29, 2024

Chair Hawj, Ranking Minority Member Eichorn, and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

The Minnesota Grocers Association thanks you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding SF3889 concerning the sale and disposal of nonwoven personal care products.

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.

It is important that proposed laws consider all aspects of the supply chain to ensure the rule is achievable without unintended consequences. Minnesota cannot act as a regulatory island. Any changes to current statute should be done with the consideration of a global supply chain and the realities of a contemporary marketplace. Today's consumers have choices beyond traditional brick and mortar retailers – online marketplaces are a competitive reality.

We appreciate that SF3889 has an effective date that recognizes there is product currently in the supply chain and allows for the sale of those products. We also appreciate the understanding of wholesalers and retailers role in the distribution of these products.

On behalf of our membership, we thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. We look forward to working collaboratively with Senator Seeberger as this bill moves through the committee process.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Pfuhl
President
Minnesota Grocers Association