



April 18, 2025

Chair Putnam and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Retailers and the 1,200 store fronts we represent, I am writing to express our opposition to SF 188, which would require food manufacturers and brand owners to conduct ortho-phthalate testing and disclose results before selling packaged food in Minnesota. While we support transparency and consumer safety, this bill creates significant challenges for retailers and could have economic consequences.

Retailers rely on a broad and diverse supply chain, including local, regional and national suppliers. The proposed testing and reporting requirements will likely increase costs, reduce product availability, and create compliance burdens that will disproportionately impact our small businesses. Many manufacturers, especially those from out of state, may choose to stop selling in Minnesota rather than absorb the additional regulatory costs—limiting consumer choice and raising prices.

Furthermore, this bill places compliance responsibility on manufacturers, yet retailers may still face supply chain disruptions and potential liability if suppliers fail to meet reporting standards. Retailers should not bear the consequences of a requirement that does not align with national standards.

Rather than implementing a standalone state-level regulation that isolates Minnesota's market, we urge the Committee to consider alternative approaches, such as federal alignment, or other approaches that balance consumer protection with economic sustainability.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and find a solution that protects both Minnesota consumers and its vital retail industry. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Nustad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Nustad  
bruce@mnretail.org