



April 1, 2025

Chair Xiong and Members of the Committee:

As a collection of 1,200 storefronts across the state, including main street retailers, regional stores and national brands, we would like to share our opposition to SF 1598 (removing the prohibition on banning merchant bags at the local level).

Our policy position on this matter is very straightforward: **"We oppose the bag ban repeal, and connected to that, we hope to support a future statewide solution that offers consistency for consumers, uniformity for retailers, and is developed in partnership with all stakeholders."**

Any change of this scale—one that affects consumers, retailers, suppliers, and more—should be done holistically, at the state level. Leaving this up to local ordinances creates a confusing patchwork of rules that makes it harder for everyone to understand what's expected.

A statewide approach benefits consumers by ensuring they encounter the same rules no matter where they shop in Minnesota. That consistency builds fairness, trust, and predictability.

It also benefits retailers. Uniform rules allow businesses to plan, streamline operations, and avoid unexpected costs—costs that often trickle down to consumers. Consistent statewide policy helps all retailers be good partners in compliance while keeping things fair across the board.

Finally, we believe any statewide policy around bags should be developed with input from advocates, retailers, and consumers alike. That's how we build a well-balanced solution that reflects shared goals—like protecting the environment—while also supporting Minnesota's retail economy.

If the Legislature is going to consider changing current law, it should only be in the context of a thoughtful, inclusive statewide plan. We're ready and willing to be part of that conversation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Nustad

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