

From: [Steve Barthel](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#); jpfuhl@mngrocers.com
Subject: MN Grocers Association Comments - ESST Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:51:34 AM
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[MGA - St Paul Ordinance 23-48 Comments.pdf](#)

Good morning members of the St. Paul City Council and staff,

Please see the attached letter from the MN Grocers Association regarding the proposed Earned Sick & Safe Time Ordinance 23-48.

We appreciate your time and consideration and are happy to answer any questions. Thank you!

Steve Barthel

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MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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October 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Carter and members of the St. Paul City Council,

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) wishes to express our support for the proposed Ordinance 23-48 being considered by the City Council. The ordinance would align St. Paul's Earned Sick and Safe Time rules with those recently passed by the state legislature. We do so as both the trade organization for Minnesota's food industry, representing over 300-member companies including retailers, producers, manufacturers, and wholesalers, many of whom operate within St. Paul's city limits, and as a non-profit operating within the city.

As a highly regulated industry, it is critically important that we manage our operations to meet food code, best practices, and marketplace standards. We are highly committed to the well-being of our employees. We work diligently to provide the flexibility to meet team member's needs, that flexibility is part of the appeal of our career opportunities.

Aligning St. Paul's Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) rules with those that were passed by the legislature is a common-sense approach that would eliminate confusion for companies that operate in multiple municipalities. In approving Ordinance 23-48, the city of St. Paul would set a balanced example for other cities who approved similar ESST rules prior to the state passing the new statewide law.

As a small non-profit that operates within St. Paul, we also appreciate elimination of the confusion that comes with trying to implement separate local and state requirements. Like most businesses that operate in the city, we do not have a large human resources department, and the streamlining of regulations is greatly appreciated.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your consideration of Ordinance 23-40, and encourage its passage. We hope that other municipalities will follow your example and ensure consistency for both workers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pfuhl
President
Minnesota Grocers Association

The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association representing the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. Minnesota has a unique culture of hundreds of hometown grocers and convenience stores, many of whom are independent, multigenerational, and locally owned. The MGA is their state trade association, with over 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 members with over 1,300 locations statewide, as well as food producers, manufacturers, brokers, and wholesaler members. The MGA is tasked to support and represent industry while advancing the common good of our great state.