



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

September 25, 2017

City Council Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA), we would like to voice our strong concerns on the City of St. Paul's proposed to-go packaging ban. We respectfully urge the City Council to reject the proposal and instead seek to implement a more comprehensive recycling program that will truly reduce the waste stream.

The MGA is a state trade association representing the food industry since 1897. We have over 200 retail members with nearly 1,100 stores statewide, as well as approximately 115 distributors and manufacturers. Our member companies employ over 125,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. The food industry is the backbone Minnesota's economy, providing one out of every twenty jobs in our state.

Our members work hard to give our customers the products they need to provide sustenance to themselves and their families. We strongly believe in voluntary methods and partnerships to promote a sustainable future for the communities we serve. St. Paul's retail food community has faced a series of costly mandates that are making it truly difficult to operate successfully. This ban on to-go food and beverage containers presents a costly challenge. Businesses located within the city would be at a direct and significant competitive disadvantage, hurting job creation and economic growth.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the city to develop a workable recycling alternative. Such an option would raise awareness with citizens that this material does have value, and would institutionalize a process that would allow the city to remove far more of this material from the waste stream.

We appreciate the opportunity to again voice our opposition to this mandate, and look forward to being included in any future discussions. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Pfuhl', is written over the typed name.

Jamie Pfuhl
President

Minnesota Grocers Association