



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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August 10, 2021

Dear Members of the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group,

On behalf of the Minnesota Grocers Association, we are writing this letter to support the inclusion of the food industry in frontline worker bonuses being considered by the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating nearly 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

Workers throughout the food and agriculture supply chain, as part of Minnesota's essential infrastructure, have been on the job for the duration of the pandemic. We have stood united as an industry with two overarching missions: to provide our fellow Minnesotans healthy, nutritious, and safe foods and beverages, and to protect our essential workers so they can continue to perform their critical work. Throughout the pandemic, the food and beverage supply chain has remained flexible, nimble and resilient. Despite the heartrending impacts of COVID-19, Minnesotans have been able to count on a safe, stable supply of food and beverages to sustain them through this crisis.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the critical and essential services the food industry provides to their communities has been amplified. As Governor Walz has stated, "I don't think a single one of us in Minnesota will walk through a grocery store and see someone clerking and checking us out the same way because we found out very, very quickly who is valuable in this society and who is willing to stand up." As the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group considers on how to allocate \$250 million in compensation, the food industry is absolutely deserving of recognition.

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our support of the food industry to be included in frontline worker bonuses. If you have any questions or concerns we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pfuhl
President
Minnesota Grocers Association