



MGA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Competitiveness

Laws must change over time to allow Minnesota businesses to be more **efficient and viable**. The MGA supports a competitive marketplace that allows the food industry to bring consumers the best service and prices. To have that, government must promote a **free marketplace** that does not create competitive disadvantages and evolves to meet real-time consumer expectations.

Energy



Our industry is working to reduce energy consumption through conservation programs and increasingly energy efficient equipment. Alternative sources of energy are necessary, but conventional energy sources cannot be limited during development. It is imperative that this investment in the future is done with an eye on the present. Electrical power must stay **abundant and affordable** for businesses to continue moving forward.



Food Choice

Consumer choice is the basis for a free marketplace. Legislative policies must consider all the challenges of today's marketplace and their impact on customers baskets. There must be **parity and balance** when it comes to expanding food options within communities. Additionally, government must address changing technologies and support private/public partnership to allow for the administration of government programs, such as SNAP and WIC.

Health Care



Health care is an important benefit, allowing employers to attract team members and to ensure they have the tools to promote good health. Many companies have pharmacy services to help fulfill a vital need in their neighborhoods. The food industry is concerned about the **cost and effectiveness**, as well as the systemic societal issues driving the debates. Government policies must promote quality access, fluidity, choice, and affordable coverage.



Sustainability

The Food Industry of MN is at the forefront of reducing waste. Environmental legislation comes in many different forms. There are bans on certain materials or unrealistic product stewardship frameworks. Industry has enacted many **voluntary programs** that positively support sustainability initiatives. All state policies must promote **consumer education** and ensure the state doesn't become a regulatory island. State policies should be built around current working private sector infrastructure and partnerships that will achieve sustainability goals.

Taxes & Budget



Businesses are making difficult but **responsible choices** and decisions as they move forward in the realities of today's world. Government must do the same. Continuing to grow government beyond it's means is unsustainable. Government must focus on developing programs that address the state's needs, while ensuring that Main Street businesses have an economic environment in which they can grow and **support the communities they serve**.



Transportation

Our transportation infrastructure is the key to building a sustainable supply chain – from farm to fork. The MGA urges legislators to find a balance in **transportation funding** between taxes and **wise investment**. Efficiencies should be found to meet our state's needs. Regulatory changes need to be reflective of the challenges presented in a strategic and thoughtful manner.

Workforce



Our employees are the face of the industry. Business operators have healthy relationships with employees, negotiating issues like wages and benefits either collectively or individually. Acknowledging the current labor market, government should encourage strong employer/employee relationships. Policies should focus on developing ways to **encourage job growth** and **empower our workforce** by devising solutions that develop quality, educated employees who are ready to step in and lead.