

Written Testimony on House Bill 861
House Labor and Industry Committee Hearing

Chairs: Representative Rob Kauffman (R)
Representative John Galloway (D)

Presented by Alex Baloga, President and CEO
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association

May 24, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Room G-50, Irvis Office Building
House Labor and Industry



Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association

**Advocating the views of convenience stores, supermarkets,
independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors.**

PFMA Officers

CHAIRMAN
Jeffrey Brown
Brown's Super Stores, Inc.
Westville, NJ

VICE CHAIRMAN
Lou Mola
Wawa, Inc.
Wawa, PA

TREASURER
Thomas Cormier
Ahold USA, Inc.
Parent company of
Giant Food Stores, LLC
Carlisle, PA

SECRETARY
Frank Puleo
C&S Wholesale Grocers
Robesonia, PA

Association Staff

PRESIDENT & CEO
Alex Baloga

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
David L. McCorkle

Services for our members

Legislative Representation
Committees
Coupon Redemption
Bill Payments
Money Orders
Energy Pool Savings
Scanning Certification
Seminars/Webinars
Annual Meeting
Publications
Scholarship Program

Good morning Chairman Kauffman, Minority Chairman Galloway, and members of the House Labor and Industry Committee. Thank you for allowing the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA) to submit written comments for the record in support of House Bill 861.

I would also like to thank Representative Grove for introducing this important piece of legislation, and those who have supported the initiative by cosigning the bill.

I am here on behalf of the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, which represents supermarkets, independent grocers, convenience stores, wholesalers, and consumer product vendors operating within the Commonwealth, ranging in size from national and regional chain stores to small, independent retailers. Our corporate members operate over 3,500 retail food stores, employing more than 200,000 Pennsylvania citizens.

As more local governments begin passing and implementing these types of employment ordinances, businesses operating in multiple municipalities have and will continue to face ever increasing costs to maintain compliance with a multitude of differing regulations.

Having varying workplace ordinances hurts not only those businesses currently operating in those specific municipalities, but also businesses operating in multiple municipalities as well as acting as a barrier to smaller, independent retailers expanding their retail operations beyond certain municipal borders.

Additionally, a collage of labor policies makes Pennsylvania unattractive to out-of-state organizations that may otherwise have been interested in doing business within the Commonwealth.

In this way, local variations in labor policies are not only detrimental to the business owners themselves, but also to their actual and potential employees and families, customers, state tax revenue collections, and the state and local economies. It is vital to Pennsylvania's economy that the state maintains a consistent level of labor policies statewide to provide stability for businesses to operate, thrive, and expand.

PFMA's members are dedicated to improving employee work conditions through good business practices, and stand ready to work with you to ensure their best interests are considered in developing labor and employment policies.

For these reasons, PFMA and its members support House Bill 861. Thank you, again, for allowing us to submit these comments for your review. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Respectfully,

Alex Baloga
President & CEO

**PENNSYLVANIA FOOD
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION**
1029 Mumma Road • P.O. Box 870
CAMP HILL, PA 17001-0870

P: 717.731.0600; 800.543.8207
F: 717.731.5472; E: pfma@pfma.net
www.pfma.org

