



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association announces 2020 state and federal legislative priorities and releases 2019 year-end reports

CAMP HILL, PA (January 15, 2020) – The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA) – a statewide advocacy organization representing the interests of grocers, convenience store operators, consumer packaged goods companies and wholesalers – has released its 2020 legislative priorities and 2019 year-end reports.

“On the state level, we’ll be focused on legislation allowing additional access to qualified Video Gaming Terminal (VGT) retail establishments, updating the Price Gouging Act to benefit both consumers and businesses, repealing the onerous Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax in Philadelphia, expanding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) distribution schedule, and updating state alcohol sales and distribution laws,” PFMA President & CEO Alex Baloga said. “We’ll also be lobbying to prevent increases to the state cigarette tax, new taxes on tobacco, state sales tax expansion, elimination of property taxes, menu labeling requirements, plastic container, bag and packaging bans, and government-mandated scheduling legislation.”

On the federal level, PFMA will be advocating for the establishment of CBD regulations by the FDA and other federal and state agencies, passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USCMA), comprehensive tax reform for individuals and small businesses, patent reform, efforts to improve and increase access/funding for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), and rescinding any harmful federal regulations in place, as well as preventing new ones.

“We will continue to oppose any new federally mandated paid-and-unpaid leave policies, as well as attempts to levy federal sugar-sweetened beverage taxes or additional taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products,” Baloga said. “We’ll also be opposing changing the point of obligation for the Renewable Fuel Standards Program, cuts to SNAP, restrictions on what recipients can purchase with SNAP dollars, and an outright ban on vapor or e-cigarette products.”

PFMA also released its year-end reports for communication, association services, committees, and subsidiary iPennsylvania Coupon Redemption Services (PCRS). The reports can be found [here](#).

A full list of state-level legislative priorities can be found [here](#), while the federal priorities can be found [here](#).

About PFMA

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, a statewide trade association, advocates the views of nearly 800 convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors. PFMA members operate more than 3,200 stores and employ more than 150,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit www.pfma.org.

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