



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Matthew Kemeny
Director of Communications
717.731.0600 ext. 5923
717.433.8740 (c)
mkemeny@pmfa.net

Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association hosts annual fall conference

CAMP HILL (October 15, 2019) – The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA) recently hosted its 4th annual Fall Legislative Conference at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg in Camp Hill.

The event was punctuated by a special guest keynote speaker, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, who spoke during cocktail hour about challenges to cuts to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the problem of food insecurity in America.

The conference, held Oct. 7-8, included federal and state legislative panels, which discussed issues facing the food and beverage industry, the business community as a whole, and other topics of interest to attendees. Educational sessions included an update from state Gaming Control Board Chief Counsel R. Douglas Sherman on rollout of video gaming terminals (VGT) and a cyber-security presentation from Federated Insurance's Patrick Donahue.

"We were very fortunate once again to have a great lineup of expert panelists, as well as quality, informative presentations about relevant and current topics of great interest to our members," PFMA President & CEO Alex Baloga said. "We were also thankful Senator Casey took the time from his busy schedule to travel to our conference, speak, and meet with our members."

"We'd also like to express our deepest thanks to our Corporate Leadership Sponsors, our members, presenters and panelists, and associates and staff who helped make this event possible," Baloga said.

Serving on the federal legislative panel was: Jennifer Hatcher, Chief Public Policy Officer and Senior Vice President, Government and Public Affairs for the Food Marketing Institute; Jon Taets, Director of Government Relations for the National Association of Convenience Stores; Robert Yeakel, Director of Government Relations for the National Grocers Association; and Michael Gruber, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Grocery Manufacturers Association. The panel was moderated by PFMA Board Vice Chairman Tom Cormier, Manager of Government Affairs at Retail Business Services, a subsidiary of PFMA member and sponsor Ahold-Delhaize USA.

Serving on the state legislative panel was: Drew Crompton, Chief of Staff for Senate President Pro Tempore, Sen. Joe Scarnati; Ali Thomas, Senior Managing Director, Senior Legislative Counsel for the state Democratic Office of Legislation and Policy; Neal Leshner, Chief of Staff for Speaker of the House, Rep. Mike Turzai; and Jerermy Kiehl, Director of Legislative Affairs to House Majority Leader, Rep. Bryan Cutler. The panel was moderated by PFMA Legislative Committee Co-Chairman Jeff Allen, President & CEO of PFMA member and sponsor Allen Brothers Wholesale Distribution.

The next event on PFMA's agenda is its 2020 Annual Conference, scheduled for June 23-24 in Philadelphia.

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 3,500 stores and employ more than 200,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit www.pfma.org.

##