

Contact: Judy Sullivan
Director of Government Relations
703-437-5300

N.G.A. SUPPORTS ADMINISTRATION'S NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

RESTON, Virginia (June 18, 2001) – Following a briefing regarding the Administration's national energy policy, N.G.A. President and CEO, Tom Zaucha, wrote a letter to Vice President Cheney, stating that N.G.A. strongly supports the policy and offered N.G.A.'s assistance in promoting the policy's success.

"We agree that a national energy policy should focus on developing more diversified and efficient sources of supply, as well as encourage greater conservation," said Zaucha.

Next to the cost of labor, energy is the second largest expense to the grocery industry. In his letter, Zaucha listed a series of practices that grocers have historically implemented to conserve energy in their stores, which includes procedures such as dimming lights to save on electricity consumption without compromising customer safety, retrofitting incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights, replacing old HVAC systems with new energy-efficient systems, installing time clocks or setback-programmable thermostats to maximize efficiency, installing locking covers on thermostats to prevent tampering with temperature settings, performing scheduled maintenance on units including cleaning condenser coils, replacing air filters regularly and checking ducts and pipe insulation for damage, keeping refrigerator evaporator coils clean and free of ice or debris build-up, using night covers on display cases, urging the installation of auto door-closers and strip curtains on walk-in freezers and coolers, and reducing air conditioning.

"N.G.A. members have a vital role in the national economy and food chain, and are facing the challenge of providing customers with a reliable, plentiful and safe supply of fresh food and grocery products year round. To do so requires the use of a considerable amount of electric power," said Zaucha.

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers.