



## ***Ohio Legislature Declares July Independent Retailers Month***

**(OHIO – July 2024)** –Independent retailers are small business owners who significantly impact the economy. According to the Small Business Administration, small companies generate 1.5 million jobs annually, accounting for 64% of new jobs in America. Small businesses also contribute 44% of the U.S. economic activity, so as the number of new businesses grows, so does their financial contribution.

Those reasons are among the many that led the Ohio Legislature to recognize the valued contribution of independent retailers, by declaring July *Independent Retailers Month*.

On June 25, MIRA leadership was welcomed by key Ohio Legislators in their celebration of independent retailers ahead of *Independent Retailers Month*. The Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives recognized the vital contributions of independent retailers across Ohio.

Senate President Matt Huffman, and Senator Mark Romanchuk, 22nd District, both offered a tribute on behalf of the Ohio State Senate. The Ohio State House of

Representatives also provided a tribute from Speaker Jason Stephens and 94<sup>th</sup> District Representative Jay Edwards.

Both houses' tributes focused on the significant role that independent retailers play in the economy, both on a state and local level. They recognized the jobs, taxes, accessibility to goods, and services independent retailers provide to the state's communities.

The Ohio resolution states, "Independent Retailers Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge such enterprises' vital contributions across the State of Ohio and the entire Midwest Region. Independent retailers offer goods and services not always found in big box stores but also employ area residents, keep tax dollars in their communities, and sponsor local organizations and events."

MIRA is a pivotal organization, representing nearly 500 Ohio independent retailers in the food, beverage, and petroleum industries. One of the pillars of MIRA's mission is to ensure that these retailers have a collective voice and their legislative priorities are equally represented.

"MIRA represents independent retailers from across the state, including grocers, specialty food markets, service stations, wholesalers, convenience stores, and pharmacies, along with many the businesses providing access to food and retail in their communities," said Jerry Griffin, VP of Government Relations at MIRA. "According to a U.S. Small Business Administration 2022 report, the retail and wholesale trade industry in Ohio employs more than 300,000 people"

MIRA plays a key role in facilitating relationships between independent retailers and government representatives. The organization's proactive approach is evident in its continuous efforts to bring potential issues to light and work towards resolving them.

“Our commitment to working with state legislators is unwavering,” said Bill Wild, president/CEO of MIRA “Our ability to connect and collaborate with government leaders is a testament to the association’s longevity. MIRA's ongoing efforts are a source of optimism for the future of independent retailers.”

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## **About MIRA**

*MIRA, which has served as “The voice for the food, beverage, and petroleum industries” since 1910, is the premier multi-state trade association representing thousands of independent retailers operating in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and the rest of the Midwest. MIRA maintains its Executive Offices in West Bloomfield, Michigan.*

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