



## HIGH ROAD RESTAURANTS

May 18, 2022

RE: Support for One Fair Wage Bill A10203/S808

Dear Senate Majority Leader Stewart Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

We, the undersigned, are restaurant owners who collectively support legislation to end the subminimum wage for tipped workers and allow for tip sharing among front- and back-of-house employees, as delineated in Bill A10203/S808, and call on you to prioritize and pass this legislation immediately.<sup>1</sup>

In April 2018, Congress passed a bill allowing restaurant employers nationwide who pay the full minimum wage to share tips with kitchen staff. This has helped owners in other states manage labor costs and create greater pay equity in regards to race, gender, and position in their restaurants. Many New York restaurant employers are prepared to move to a full minimum wage if tip sharing becomes permissible—along with modest tax relief only applicable to increased wages. It has become clearer than ever that hospitality professionals' economic futures are deeply insecure, with many facing hunger, housing destabilization, and additional debt. Being forced to rely solely on tips, creates a system that encourages rampant sexual harassment of women, reinforces a wide delta of inequity of race, madisenfranchisement of immigrants, people of color and working poor. With tips vastly down in this climate already, it's clear that having to rely on tips alone could never be sustainable.

New York must take this opportunity to ensure a sustainable and just future for all. In this case, that means government working hand-in-hand with hospitality professionals—both front line team members and owner/operators—to ensure that we have a living wage, and that the hard hit restaurants New Yorkers love have the tools needed to lead our industry and thrive.

These changes were important then, but now they are critical. This is a crisis moment for restaurants in New York, as our workforce has decided that it is not worth going back to our industry with so many inequities and insecurities. We need a level playing field that helps us attract and retain the talent needed to make our industry as resilient as it is delicious. Please enact these changes immediately to help us recover and rebuild.

Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A10203&leg\\_video=](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A10203&leg_video=)

## **NEW YORK RESTAURANT OWNERS**

Michael Lastoria, &pizza  
Jose Andres, ThinkFoodGroup  
Dennis Meheil, Buffalo Wild Wings  
Danny Meyer, Union Square Hospitality Group  
David Chang, Momofuku  
Russell Jackson, Reverence  
Evan Hanzcor, Egg  
Michael Fuquay, The Queensboro  
Yency Perez, Barepas  
Dragan Ristovski, Marlow Bistro  
Yajaira Saavedram, La Morada  
Beejhy Barhany, Tsion Cafe  
Peter Cheung, Hide-Chan Ramen  
Mary Cleaver, Cleaver Co, The Green Bottle, and Table Green  
Elena Barcenos, Rincón Salvadoreno  
Soogil Lim, SOOGIL  
Elizabeth Murray, The Marlow Collective  
Marjanne Motamedi, Cibo E Vino  
Melissa Morales, Pomp and Circumstance  
Hospitality Giselle Malave, Sapoara  
Mutale Kanyanta, LOCALS BKNY  
Elisa Lyew, Love Bites Dessert Atelier  
Stephanie Gross, Wonderville  
Ioana Hercberg, La Cantine  
Ingrid Ammann, Mad Tropical  
Leo Tineo, The Sampler  
Greg Curley, Abe's Pagoda Bar and The Double Windsor  
Scott Hawley, Otis Paul Cacici, Carmenita's Italian Specialties  
Julian Mohamed, The Wandering Barman Darren  
Grenia, Yours Sincerely  
Gavin Morse, Darkness Ventures  
Henry Glucroft, Sunrise/Sunset and Petra  
Rachel Allswang, Le Garage  
Jae Lee, Nowan  
Sabrina De Sousa, Dimes  
Laura Regan, Outerborougharts LLC  
Latoya Anderson, Caribbean Starr  
Restaurant Matthew Hamilton, Rosalu  
Josh Morales, Slick Willie Table & Bar  
Koorosh Bakhtiar, Jajaja Plantas  
Mexicana Marie Tribouilloy, Ops  
Brian Keyser, Casellula  
Christopher Bates, FLX Table

Molly Fisher, 232 Bleecker  
Wei Dong Yie, Baodego  
Shannon Kimball, Bar Bruno  
Hollis Barclay, Bleu Fin Bar & Grill  
Donna Drake, Brooklyn  
Yvon Lemoine, My Kitchen Forest Hills  
Dumpling Galaxy  
Brian Chunton, Eat Gai  
Tiffany Bowen, Harlem Hookah  
Tomoyuki Iwanami, Kaikagetsu NYC  
Barbara Sibley, La Palapa  
Cassandre Davilmar, Lakou Café  
Emmeline Zhao, Little Tong Noodle Shop  
Alex Antimisiaris, Loi Estiatorio  
Ana Medrano, Q44 Bar & Grill  
Frantz Metellus, Rustik Tavern  
Davis Alexander, Savannah Café  
Leah Abraham, Settepani  
Jesus Caicedo-Diaz, Skäl  
Wiki Wang, Spicy Moon Vegetarian  
Szechuan Jess Li, Stand Up Café  
Ioannis Berbeis, Telio  
Raphael Benavides, The Cecil  
Steakhouse Brett Isbell, The Corners  
Andrew Ding, The Expat  
Stephen Young, Tsismis NYC Ricky  
Dolinsky, Tzarevna  
Kurt Gutenbrunner, Wallse Restaurant  
Group Bryan Chunton, Zen Yai