



Resolution #2 – 2018

Resolution to oppose the proposed elimination of the minimum wage tip credit currently being evaluated by the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Labor.

Whereas, the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc., represents over 400 businesses and is an informational source and advocate for fair business practices to both member and non-member businesses in the Lake George Region;

Whereas, The Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc., uses all its resources to stay in the forefront relative to trends and fair business practices pertinent to tourism on a local, regional, and statewide basis;

Whereas, the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc., represents many types of business structures within the tourism and hospitality industry: sole proprietorship, general partnership, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), Limited Liability Limited Partnership (LLLP), Corporation, Nonprofit Corporation, Limited Liability Company (LLC), Massachusetts Trust, Trust, Joint Venture, Tenants in Common, Municipality, Association;

Whereas, the many business structures within the tourism and hospitality industry within the Lake George Region/Warren County involve food service staff that currently receive tips in addition to the minimum wage for tipped employees at \$7.50 per hour;

Whereas, the Adirondack Traveler food and beverage spending in Warren County, Lake George Region in 2016 per NYS Tourism Impact was valued at \$137, 594,000 and 22% of overall traveler spending;

Whereas, the direct impact of the labor income to Warren County within the tourism sector is \$170,459,000, among the 6,542 employees or 17% of overall employment within the County;

Whereas, the current projection of tourism-generated state and local taxes impact the average household in the region positively to the equivalent of an additional \$1,571 to maintain the same level of government revenue;

Whereas, many restaurant establishments within the Lake George Region are viewed as attraction assets within the tourism industry complementing the attractions, accommodations, activities, and overall destination appeal to traveling visitors;

Whereas, we believe that if the Department of Labor approves the elimination of the minimum wage tip credit, many Warren County restaurant establishments would either downsize, limit service offerings or close due to the increased labor cost reducing the overall appeal of the Lake George Region destination to visitors;

Therefore, we adamantly oppose the elimination of the minimum wage tip credit believing it will adversely affect all aspects of the tourism industry: current employment; taxes generated; employer and employee income, tourism employment, overall destination appeal and ultimately, traveler visitation.

Therefore, let it be said the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc., requests the Department of Labor to keep the minimum wage tip credit as it currently stands to benefit all food and beverage employees, businesses, and the overall tourism economy.

Adopted, January 24, 2018

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Vogel

Fred Vogel, President, Board of Directors

Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc.