WEST VIRGINIA’S $2.8 BILLION RESTAURANT ECONOMY IS AT RISK

Over 75% of West Virginia’s 3,291 eating and drinking locations are in danger of closing permanently without The RESTAURANTS Act

THE RESTAURANTS ACT WOULD GENERATE $863 MILLION ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR WEST VIRGINIA

- Food services account for 8.0% of all employment in West Virginia.
- Accommodation and food services projected to contribute 2,262 new West Virginian jobs from 2016 to 2026.
- The RESTAURANTS Act would galvanize West Virginia’s tourism industry, encouraging travelers to eat in West Virginia’s establishments and spend money on lodging, other tourist attractions, and retail, generating $343 million.
- The RESTAURANTS Act would provide $61 million in benefits to countless other bakers, fishermen, butchers, and, of course, West Virginia’s 22,970 small farms.

WITHOUT HELP FOR INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS, WEST VIRGINIA’S ECONOMY WILL SUFFER

- An estimated 76% of eateries are independently owned.
- Independent restaurants rely far less on pickup and drive through service. Fine and casual dining have declined 85% and 65% respectively, while fast-food has only decreased 21%. National chains like Domino’s, Pizza Hut, Papa John’s, Raising Cane’s, and Taco Bell have hired during this time.
- Nearly 65% of the revenue from local independent restaurants recirculates in the local economy compared to about 30% for chain restaurants.

THE RESTAURANTS ACT WOULD HELP PROTECT 74,600 WEST VIRGINIAN JOBS

- Since the beginning of March, the leisure and hospitality industry has accounted for 38% of all jobs lost in West Virginia.
- Keeping many of West Virginia’s 74,600 leisure and hospitality workers employed would save West Virginia $121 million in unemployment benefits and insurance taxes.

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1 West Virginia Restaurant Industry at a Glance, National Restaurant Association.
2 Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, page 2; West Virginia Restaurant Industry at a Glance, National Restaurant Association.
3 Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 57. This number represents the total benefits generated by the RESTAURANTS ACT for the state of West Virginia. It excludes dollars attributed to Federal benefit.
5 West Virginia Industry Projections 2016-2026.
6 Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 57.
7 Ibid, page 57 and 11.
8 Ibid, page 2.
11 Ibid, page 22.
13 West Virginia Economy at a Glance.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid; Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 57.
Nationwide, over 2.7 million leisure and hospitality workers are unemployed right now, more than any other industry. Unemployment in leisure and hospitality is over 277% higher than it was at the same time last year.\textsuperscript{16}

The RESTAURANTS Act would reduce the national unemployment rate by an estimated 2.4%, a result of saving the industry that has been hit hardest by job losses from the outset of this pandemic.\textsuperscript{17}

THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM DID NOT PROVIDE THE RELIEF NECESSARY FOR RESTAURANTS TO RECOVER

Restaurants and accommodations received less than $43 billion from the Paycheck Protection Program, despite contributing over five times that in losses to our GDP.\textsuperscript{18}

Food services and drinking places reported a 18.8% unemployment rate in August – more than double the nation’s aggregate unemployment rate of 8.5%.\textsuperscript{19}

An estimated 1 in 3 American restaurants will close by year end without Congressional support. An estimated 8,000 restaurants have already shuttered so far this year.\textsuperscript{20}

CONGRESS CAN SAVE 16 MILLION JOBS NATIONWIDE AND GENERATE UP TO $271 BILLION IN TWO YEARS BY PASSING THE RESTAURANTS ACT.\textsuperscript{21}

Independent restaurants and bars directly employ 11 million workers nationwide. Additionally, 5 million more work in the industry’s vast supply chains and rely on eating and drinking places to sustain their livelihoods.\textsuperscript{22} Without direct aid, all of these jobs are in danger of vanishing permanently.

Restaurants have become tourist destinations domestically and internationally. One study found that 72% of all travelers choose their destination based on food and drink offering.\textsuperscript{23} Tourists also spend money on travel, housing, and retail.

The loss of economic activity due to culinary travelers is estimated to be up to $141 billion.\textsuperscript{24}

Restaurants are hubs of minority employment and advancement. Sixty percent of all chefs nationwide are minorities. Minorities also make up 53% of bussers, runners, baristas, prep-cooks, dishwashers and kitchen porters. Restaurants also employ more minority employee-managers than any other industry.\textsuperscript{25}

Over half of all restaurant workers are women, and restaurants employ over one million single mothers.\textsuperscript{26}

Restaurants generate middle class jobs at a rate three times faster than the economy.\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{16} Bureau of Labor Statistics.
\textsuperscript{17} Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.\textsuperscript{1}
\textsuperscript{20} One – Third of US Restaurants Face Permanent Closure This Year.
\textsuperscript{21} Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
\textsuperscript{22} Ibid, 1, 2.
\textsuperscript{23} Ibid, 43.
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid, 45.
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid, 9.
\textsuperscript{26} Ibid, 8.
\textsuperscript{27} Middle-class jobs are growing rapidly in restaurants, National Restaurant Association