

March 20, 2020

Governor Larry Hogan  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401



Dear Governor Hogan,

Restaurants provide an essential service and are the backbone of every community. We are dedicated to our employees by offering first jobs and careers with advancement opportunities, dedicated to our customers by providing exceptional dining options and service, and dedicated to our community by supporting local charities, sports teams and events. No community is complete without the restaurants that bring it all together.

There are over 11,000 restaurants in Maryland with over 200,000 employees. The state counts on our businesses for over \$750 million in tax revenue each year. While doing so, restaurants go above and beyond more than any other industry by donating over \$10 million in gift cards to charities and events in our communities each year. Restaurants are about helping and serving others – and now we are asking for your help.

We are grateful for the actions already taken, such as the extension of business tax deadlines, allowing restaurants to maintain carryout, delivery and drive-thru status, allowing for alcoholic beverages to be sold and the suspension of state licensing deadlines. Unfortunately, that may not be enough.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted all of our lives, but the impact to our restaurants and our employees is staggering. In this uncertain time, we are all very concerned that our restaurants will not survive and our employees will not be able to make ends meet while they cannot work. We are certain of this: without urgent and dedicated aid to our industry and our employees, the restaurant industry may not recover.

We are asking for help in these areas:

- Direct Aid to Restaurants and Employees. State grants to provide cash flow is critical to our ability to survive while customer traffic and sales have plummeted. Substantial financial aid will allow us to keep our employees working.
- Tax credits with expedited processing to help us retain our employees. Payroll taxes and all other business taxes should be deferred.
- Regulatory relief regarding unemployment claims.
- Prohibit landlords from evicting businesses for non-payment of rent and allow for rent pay back over a series of months after this crisis is over. There should also be a moratorium on principal and interest payments for commercial mortgages.
- Utilities should not be turned off and there should be no penalties or interest for commercial properties that are unable to pay during this crisis.

It is difficult to imagine what the world will look like when this crisis is over; but rest assured that restaurants and community will be a large part of the recovery. Restaurants and their employees will be eager to serve and will play a critical role in our economic rebound and social well-being. Restaurants and their employees offer the path back to normalcy and the way to come back together as a community.

When you need us, restaurants will be open and ready to serve – Please be there for our industry now.

Brian Boston  
*The Milton Inn*

Joe & Mary Barbera  
*Aida Bistro*

Kelly Motley  
*Madrones*

Dan Stevens  
*Houlihan's Restaurant & Bar*

Bob Garner  
*Glory Days Grill*

Eric King  
*Sea King*

Will Robinson  
*Ledo Pizza*

Sherry Giovannoni  
*The Fish Market*

Kathie Sewell  
*Golden Corral*

Steve Smith  
*Chesapeake Hospitality*

Geoff Trout  
*IHOP - College Park*

Jeff Owens  
*Clyde's Restaurant Group*

Michelle Torres  
*Phillips Seafood Restaurants*

Jim Plamondon  
*Roy Rogers*

Kevin Keller  
*Clyde's Restaurant Group*

Jim Breuer  
*Maggie's Restaurant*

Tom Knorr  
*Evolution Craft Brewing*

Lynn Martins  
*Seibel's Family Restaurant*

Tricia & Brad Hudson  
*Hudson Coastal*

Fred Rosenthal  
*Jasper's Restaurant Group*

Angela Washington-Tallitsch  
*Bunzzz Sports Bar & Grill*

Tom O'Connor  
*Noodles and Company*

Kenneth MacFawn  
*White Rabbit Gastropub*

Natalie Martz  
*Chick-Fil-A Towson*

Kyle Algaze  
*Iron Rooster*

Jerren Wetterau  
*Chester River Yacht & Country Club*

Christopher Westwick  
*International House of Pancakes*

Doug Wetzel  
*Gertrude's Restaurant*

Leo Luistro  
*Annapolis Yacht Club*

Chris Hannan  
*Bo Brooks & McGarvey's*

Richard McClure  
*Carrol's Creek*

Larry Wilhelm  
*Friendly Farm*

Randy Marriner  
*Victoria Gastro Pub*

Jay Smith  
*Checkers*