



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

April 11, 2018

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol, Second Floor
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We appreciate this opportunity to express our strong opposition to any future action by the State of New York to eliminate the minimum wage tip credit.

Additionally, and importantly, we would like to stress that our opposition is shared by many employers, workers and consumers across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions who believe the elimination of the tip credit will have a devastating impact on their livelihoods and local economies overall.

As you are well aware, the tourism and hospitality industry in the regions we represent is central to the strength and vitality of our local economies. Consequently, the impact of the tip credit is particularly acute here and, especially along the Southern Tier border with Pennsylvania, it is central to the competitiveness of our businesses and economic opportunities for our workers.

First and foremost, then, we encourage you to ensure that the state Department of Labor conducts one of its upcoming hearings examining the possible elimination of the tip credit directly in the Southern Tier. We believe it is critical that you and your administration hear firsthand from the region's employers, workers and consumers – and we are happy to do whatever we can to help facilitate a Southern Tier regional hearing.

We are deeply concerned that the hearings are simply the first step in moving forward on eliminating the tip credit. Again, that move would be devastating to the local economies we represent. It would work against the employees who depend on these jobs to make a decent living within our hospitality- and tourism-based economy. It would eliminate jobs in communities where jobs are already hard to find, and drive down wages overall. It would put restaurants, taverns and other establishments out of business. It would raise prices for consumers.

It's a bad idea.

Thank you for your careful consideration and we look forward to any and every opportunity to provide additional input. If we can do so, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom F. O'Mara".

Thomas F. O'Mara
NYS Senator, 58th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris S. Friend".

Christopher S. Friend
NYS Assemblyman, 124th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil A. Palmesano".

Philip A. Palmesano
NYS Assemblyman, 132nd District

Cc: Commissioner Roberta Reardon, NYS Department of Labor