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To: wageboard@labor.ny.gov
Subject: Tipped Employee Wage
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Regarding the upcoming debate about whether or not to increase the minimum wage for tipped employees, as a NYC restaurant owner I would like to express a few thoughts.

Currently our servers/bartenders make between \$22 and \$35/hour including their minimum wage and tips. This is 3 to 5 times the NY minimum wage.

I do feel that these hourly wages are very fair and no increase in the minimum wage is necessary.

The restaurant system in our country is configured by social custom to compensate tipped staff via the tip system, which in most establishments runs at about 20% of the bill. It does not make sense to increase wages and put extra financial pressures on small businesses when those workers are already very well compensated.

Thank you,
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