



## Juan Alonso, owner of Taqueria Izucar in Bushwick, Brooklyn Statement on Ending the Sub-Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers

My name is Juan Alonso. I am the owner of Taqueria Izucar on Myrtle Ave. in Bushwick, Brooklyn. As the owner of a small business, I am here to support the elimination of the sub-tipped minimum wage. Twenty years ago, I came to the United States from Puebla, Mexico with the dream of starting a business and having a better life. For years, I worked in restaurants and Laundromats making barely enough money to support my family.

Five years ago, my wife and I realized our dream of starting our own business and opened Taqueria Izucar. Now, after five years of hard work, we are able to expand beyond our small family operation and are excited to hire employees.

However, the sub-tipped minimum wage makes it very difficult to manage new employees. Without the resources of a big corporation, we don't have the time to count employees' tips and ensure that they are making above the minimum wage. We have not been able to hire anyone new yet because the administrative burden outweighs these benefits. I would rather pay all my workers one wage, rather than lose the time managing them and keeping up with book-keeping.

When my wife and I opened Taqueria Izucar, we wanted to support our own family, and we knew we eventually wanted to hire workers who could support their families as well. Furthermore, like all small businesses, we are always looking for more customers. Eliminating the sub-minimum wage would put more money into workers' pockets - and those workers are also our customers. That money would be going straight into the local economy, which is where we need it the most.

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