

From: [Martin Patton](#)
To: wageboard@labor.ny.gov
Subject: Tipped Employee Wage
Date: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 11:12:44 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Martin Patton my wife Brenda and I have been in the hospitality business for more than 35 years. We have owned and operated up to four full service restaurants in the greater Oneonta- Cooperstown area.

The restaurant business as a whole has always had tipped employees these are people who deal directly with the customer and their experience at the restaurant. The business model requires more service staff than anything else within the structure of overall staff. The bottom line margins are based on several main expense factors, labor, food cost and overhead. It may surprise to know that most restaurants only make three cents on a dollar. Clearly, increasing the tipped wage to minimum will hurt and probably put many small business out of business because you will have erased and created a deficient in the amount income needed to sustain this business model.

A business model such as this has been ingrained in our culture, now it's in jeopardy because a few people who clearly have never been in the service business think these people are making below minimum wage when in fact they usually make more money on average for the year than anyone else in the same building.

Since these potential scenarios have been brought to the forefront along with the minimum wage hike and Obama care my wife and I have been down sizing and we now have only one restaurant left. One of next door restaurant colleagues recently closed and demolished his building because he saw the writing on the wall. He was to proud to wait for some legislator to change his life's work.

Be careful what you ask for. You may get more unemployment than higher wages for service people who will tell you they make allot more than minimum wage.

Think about it! When you have a positive experience at a restaurant you usually leave at least 20% tip.

Thanks

Martin Patton
President
Cooperstown All Star Village
P.O. Box 670
Cooperstown New York 13326
cell: 607-434-9091
work:607-432-7483 ext:260
e-mail: mpattoncasv@gmail.com

web site: www.cooperstownallstarvillage.com