

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bill Andrews and I am the Owner of Leon's Café & Catering in Barrington Rhode Island. I am writing to express my strong support for H 8438, legislation that would restore alignment between Rhode Island and federal tax law for qualified tip income and overtime compensation.

Rhode Island's recent decoupling from certain federal tax provisions has created a burden on hospitality workers like me. The "No Tax on Tips and Overtime" provisions of H.R. 1 were widely supported by both Democrats and Republicans. However, because Rhode Island did not adopt these changes, workers here are unable to take advantage of the "below-the-line" federal deductions for qualified tip income (up to \$25,000) and overtime pay (up to \$12,500) when filing their state taxes.

At a time when gas, healthcare, insurance, and housing costs are all at or near historic highs, it is critical that Rhode Island workers are able to keep more of their hard-earned income. Instead, many are paying higher state taxes simply because our tax code no longer matches federal policy.

H 8438 provides a fair and practical solution. By allowing a state income modification for qualified tips and overtime income, consistent with federal law, this bill ensures that hospitality workers are not penalized due to this mismatch.

This bill is an important step toward supporting Rhode Island's workforce and ensuring fairness in our tax system.

I respectfully urge you to support and pass H 8438.

Sincerely,
Bill Andrews,

Owner, Leon's Café & Catering

Barrington, RI 02806