

# McGRATH CLAMBAKES, INC.

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March 18, 2026

Honorable Arthur Corvese  
Chairman  
House Labor Committee  
State of Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

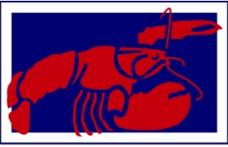
Dear Chairman Corvese and Members of the Committee,

I write to you in support of H-7973, which would allow catering companies in the State of Rhode Island to operate in the same manner as other businesses such as restaurants and hotels. This year, McGrath Clambakes, Inc. will celebrate its 57<sup>th</sup> year in business, having been founded by my parents in 1969.

Catering is a labor-intensive industry. Our employees truly are the backbone of our company. We work days, nights, weekends, and Holidays. We generally work all of the times that regular 9 to 5 folks want to be entertained or host a special occasion. But we do have days off. Our employees generally have days off on Mondays and Tuesdays or Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The requirement to pay overtime on Sundays and Holidays like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Memorial Day, and Labor Day, is a hardship for our company for several reasons.

- 1.) **Competitive Disadvantage:** Our customers seek bids not only from other caterers, but from Hotels, Restaurants with Function Rooms, Country Clubs and others. With a labor cost one and a half times, we are at a competitive disadvantage when we are bidding against these other entities on events that are either on Sundays or Holidays.
- 2.) **Difficulty in Hiring of Part Time Employees:** Employees often don't want to deal with a 2-rate structure. If I were to higher an employee at a rate of \$25 per hour, that can only work Saturdays and Sundays, I would offer them \$20 per hour. On Saturday they would make \$20 per hour and on Sunday they would make \$30 per hour. Most times, the prospective employee that believes they should make \$25 per hour would not accept a scenario where, although they made more than \$25 per hour one day, that they made less than \$25 per hour on the other day.
- 3.) **Consistency of Wages:** Our employes often have over 40 hours. When they have over 40 hours they are compensated with wages that are paid at 1.5 times their regular rate. However, with the first day of the work week mandated that we pay overtime, often employees that have 40 hours or fewer, end the week with hours paid at overtime rate although having less than 40 hours paid at their regular rate. This creates a sense of wage imbalance amongst the employees themselves as they see fellow employees with similar job descriptions, but varying end of week pay.



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We appreciate our employees, they are what makes McGrath Clambakes a success. We pay our employees good rates and we pay them the overtime they deserve as well as bonuses for the hard work they put in. We are not asking to shortchange our employees, we are only asking for equity among similar businesses.

I respectfully ask that you support H7973 which would level the playing field and allow Catering Companies to operate in the same manner as other members of the hospitality sector.

Thank you for your attention.

T.R. McGrath, President  
McGrath Clambakes, Inc.