



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION STATEMENT REGARDING RESTAURANT OPPORTUNITIES CENTER (ROC) REPORT

LANSING, MI – The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan (ROC-MI), an organized labor union front group, published another of its dubious “reports” this morning that are more concerned with generating headlines than conducting reliable, accurate research.

“These recycled attacks are part of a national, multi-million dollar campaign engineered, organized, and funded by national labor unions and their allies seeking to disparage an industry that has no barrier to entry and no limit to what employees can achieve,” said Michigan Restaurant Association President and CEO Brian DeBano.

The facts speak for themselves:

- Eight out of 10 restaurant owners started in the industry as an entry level employee.
- Restaurants employ more minority managers than any other industry.
- African-American owned restaurants increased by an astonishing 188 percent between 1997 and 2007.
- Hispanic owned restaurants increased by 80 percent between 1997 and 2007.
- As in other industries, individuals earn based on their education level. 73 percent of cooks in restaurants (back of the house) had a high school degree or less. 51 percent of servers (front of the house) had at least some college education.

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The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents more than 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing nearly 400,000 people and creating nearly \$13.4 billion in annual sales.