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MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION AWARDS LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) recently presented two state legislators with awards acknowledging their commitment to a vibrant restaurant industry in this state. The ceremony took place on July 27 in Traverse City during the MRA’s annual Summer Board meeting.

Speaker of the House Jase Bolger (R – Marshall) received the award for representative of the year to recognize his leadership in reinventing Michigan over his tenure as Speaker of the House. In addition, he was acknowledged for his role in enacting a responsible minimum wage bill that mitigated the fallout to the restaurant industry.

“Speaker Bolger stood up and made difficult decisions when it mattered most to restaurant owners across this state. His leadership saved tens of thousands of jobs and prevented scores of restaurants from closing. It is indicative of his overall tenure as Speaker and we commend him for it,” said Brian DeBano, MRA president and CEO.

Senator Howard Walker (R – Traverse City) received the senator of the year award for his unyielding commitment to the hospitality industry and for his leadership role enacting regulatory reform for seasonal employers.

“Senator Walker is the only member of the Michigan Senate to record a perfect 100% voting record with the MRA over the previous four years. His commitment to this industry and to Michigan’s thriving tourism industry is unmatched. His voice and his leadership will be missed next year,” said DeBano.

PHOTOS:

Left to Right – Jim Holton, MRA board chairman; Jase Bolger, Speaker of the House; Justin Winslow, MRA vice president of government affairs; and Brian DeBano, MRA president and CEO.

Left to Right – Jim Holton, MRA board chairman; Senator Howard Walker; Justin Winslow, MRA vice president of government affairs; and Brian DeBano, MRA president & CEO.

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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.