



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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 in Lansing during the MRA's board of directors November meeting.

Senator Marty Knollenberg (R – Troy) received the senator of the year award for his leadership in preventing a recommended 50 percent increase to annual liquor license fees from being incorporated into the state budget. His opposition of this proposal paved the way for others to agree and for the ultimate elimination of the fee increase altogether.

“Senator Knollenberg demonstrated real leadership on behalf of the restaurant industry earlier this year when he was the first to voice opposition to a substantial liquor license fee increase proposed to balance the budget,” said Justin Winslow, MRA president & CEO. “His efforts played a major role in the ultimate defeat of the fee increase and for that, the nearly 9,000 on-premises licensees in this state thank him.”

Representative Earl Poleski (R – Jackson) received the representative of the year award for his sustained commitment to enacting local preemption of wage and benefits legislation into law. Public Act 105 of 2015 was signed on June 30 by Governor Snyder and is revered across the country as the most comprehensive labor preemption bill enacted this decade.

“Representative Poleski has been a true champion for the restaurant industry during his tenure in the legislature,” proclaimed Winslow. “Thanks to his bill, restaurateurs can rest a little easier knowing that a job-killing minimum wage increase or other rigid mandate won’t be coming to suck jobs out of their town.”

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

Left to Right – Justin Winslow, MRA president & CEO; Senator Knollenberg; and Ken Miller, MRA board chairman.

Left to Right – Justin Winslow, MRA president & CEO; Representative Poleski; and Ken Miller, MRA board chairman.

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 nearly 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 415,000 people and creating nearly \$14 billion in annual sales.

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