

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 173 OF 2018

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS STROUGH, LEGGETT, BRAYMER, WILD, MCDEVITT, DIAMOND, DICKINSON, GERAGHTY, MAGOWAN, SOKOL AND DRISCOLL

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE TIP CREDIT CURRENTLY BEING EVALUATED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WHEREAS, the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc. represents over 400 businesses and is an informational source and advocate for fair business practices to both member and non-member businesses in the Lake George Region, and

WHEREAS, the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc. uses all its resources to stay in the forefront relative to trends and fair business practices pertinent to tourism on a local, regional, and statewide basis, and

WHEREAS, the many business structures within the tourism and hospitality industry within the Lake George Region/Warren County involve food service staff that currently receive tips in addition to the minimum wage for tipped employees at \$7.50 per hour, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Traveler food and beverage spending in Warren County, Lake George Region in 2016 per NYS Tourism Impact was valued at One Hundred Thirty-Seven Million Five Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Dollars (\$137,594,000) and 22% of overall traveler spending, and

WHEREAS, the direct impact of the labor income to Warren County within the tourism sector is One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$170,459,000) among the 6,542 employees or 17% of overall employment within the County, and

WHEREAS, the current projection of tourism-generated state and local taxes impact the average household in the region positively to the equivalent of an additional One Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$1,571) to maintain the same level of government revenue, and

WHEREAS, many restaurant establishments within the Lake George Region are viewed as attraction

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assets within the tourism industry complementing the attractions, accommodations, activities, and overall destination appeal to traveling visitors, and

WHEREAS, it is believed that if the Department of Labor approves the elimination of the minimum wage tip credit, many Warren County restaurant establishments would either downsize, limit service offerings or close due to the increased labor cost reducing the overall appeal of the Lake George Region destination to visitors, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors supports the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc. in opposing the elimination of the minimum wage tip credit, believing that it will adversely affect all aspects of the tourism industry including current employment, taxes generated, employer and employee income, tourism employment, overall destination appeal and ultimately, traveler visitation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Inc., requests the Department of Labor to keep the minimum wage tip credit as it currently stands to benefit all food and beverage employees, businesses, and the overall tourism economy.