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The Michigan Restaurant Association Halts Plastic Bag Ban *SB 853 signed into law by Lt. Governor Brian Calley*

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) struck a key victory as Lt. Governor Brian Calley signed SB 853 on Wednesday, December 28, 2017. This legislation will now prevent local units of government from enacting additional fees, taxes, or penalties on businesses that use plastic bags or other commonly used containers.

Currently, there are a number of local units of government across the state that have taken action to implement additional taxes and fees on businesses that not only use plastic bags, and auxiliary containers such as Styrofoam cups and cardboard boxes.

“We would like to thank the Governor and Lt. Governor Calley for their support and for signing SB 853,” said Justin Winslow, President & CEO of the MRA. “As the second largest private employer in Michigan, the restaurant industry plays a major role in Michigan’s economic future. Frivolous regulation at the local level threatens to jeopardize that future, which is why the MRA led the charge for sensible reform embodied in SB 853.”

The MRA was part of a large coalition which led the effort to pass this business friendly legislation to better protect the business community from a patchwork approach of additional regulation and burdensome mandates.

“With many of our members owning and operating locations across the state, preventing a patchwork approach of additional regulations is imperative to avoid added complexities as it related to day-to-day business operations” said Robert O’Meara, Vice President of Government Affairs at the MRA.

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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 approximately 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 421,500 people and generating \$15.4 billion in annual sales.