



Lawmakers Want to Hear Directly from You

The month of January marks a year full of new beginnings: new resolutions, new resolve, new developments, and new initiatives. And naturally, the same beginnings will be taking place in business and in government. Each January, the Maryland General

Assembly begins meeting in Annapolis for 90 days to act on more than 2,300 bills that could potentially affect the foodservice and hospitality industries.

At the Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM), it is our mission to protect the foodservice and hospitality industries and play

their businesses.

At the reception, you will enjoy signature dishes and desserts from featured RAM member restaurants, with complimentary beverages. It truly is the most celebrated legislative reception of the year and at the top of the “must attend” list for state lawmakers and their staffs.



an integral role in the legislative decision-making process. We have a full-time team that works tirelessly to navigate through the bureaucracy and educate lawmakers about how important restaurants are to the economy and our communities. In 2015, the foodservice industry contributed \$664 million in sales tax revenue to the state of Maryland. When restaurants do well, the state does well. We must constantly remind lawmakers of that fact.

To help foster a dialogue between lawmakers and members of the foodservice and hospitality industries, RAM will be hosting the annual Taste of Maryland Legislative Reception on Monday, January 15 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel. For one evening, we bring restaurant owners and key staff together with their state representatives to meet and chat about what's really affecting

Aside from a great cocktail party, the Taste of Maryland is an important part of the legislative process. Industries that are willing to meet and discuss issues with their lawmakers are the industries that can avoid adverse legislation. Strength is in numbers, and the more people who attend and make their views known, the better off our industry will be. You can't always rely on your state associations to deliver the message. Lawmakers often want to hear directly from YOU!

This is your opportunity to be part of the legislative process. For tickets to the Taste of Maryland Legislative Reception, go to marylandrestaurants.com.

MARSHALL WESTON is the president and CEO of the Restaurant Association of Maryland.



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