



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Wisconsin Restaurant Association Supports Smoke-Free Workplaces**

The Wisconsin Restaurant Association fully supports Governor Doyle's decision to include a statewide smoke-free workplaces provision in the state budget bill unveiled Tuesday evening.

"With so many local ordinances throughout the state restricting smoking, a statewide ban with no exemptions is the only way to truly level the playing field and create a fair competitive environment for all businesses," said Ed Lump, WRA President and CEO. "We applaud Governor Doyle for his leadership on this issue."

"Because it will save taxpayers money in programs like Medicaid, Badger Care and Senior Care, of course it should be in the state budget bill," Lump said. He predicted that making all workplaces smoke free would save millions of dollars in health care related costs over the course of the two-year budget cycle.

Tom Saxe, from Saxe's Dining and Banquets in Genesee township in Waukesha County, said that the statewide smoke-free workplaces law is not just about economics, but also about keeping people healthy.

"Our employees and guests are like family to us, and they deserve a healthy environment," said Saxe, whose restaurant and bar went smoke-free in 2008.

"One in ten jobs in Wisconsin are in the food and beverage industry. There is no reason why workers in restaurants and taverns should be subjected to toxic air that is not allowed in factories, offices, retail stores and other common work environments," Saxe added.

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*Since 1933, the Wisconsin Restaurant Association has been dedicated to the promotion, protection and improvement of the foodservice industry. The Wisconsin Restaurant Education Foundation's mission is to promote food service as a professional career path; attract and educate future industry leaders; and provide quality training for those already working in the industry.*