

ORHMA

ONTARIO RESTAURANT HOTEL & MOTEL ASSOCIATION

April 4, 2005

TO ALL MPPs:

On behalf of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) and our members province-wide I am writing to you regarding Bill 144, the *Labour Relations Statute Amendment Act*. As the Legislature has now resumed for the spring sitting, so too has debate on Bill 144 gotten underway.

The ORHMA notes with interest and disappointment that the Government has failed to commit to send Bill 144 to Standing Committee following second reading, even when directly asked during Question Period.

There are many opinions regarding Bill 144, but most agree that in order to achieve the government's stated goal of achieving fairness and balance in Ontario's workforce the legislation requires considerable amendment. For this reason the ORHMA is seeking your support in ensuring that Bill 144 receives proper consideration and public hearings by a Standing Committee.

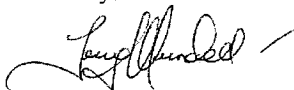
The hospitality industry, over the past few years, has suffered severe direct and indirect effects of several events out of the industry's control, such as 9/11, SARS, BSE, a heightened Canadian Dollar, and the NHL strike. The foodservice and accommodation sectors require concerted efforts to help re-stabilize and revitalize the hospitality industry. Now is not the time for labour unrest. The ORHMA shares the Government's vision of fairness and stability in the workplace but Bill 144, as currently drafted, will not achieve this goal.

As you know, the Coalition for Democratic Labour Relations is a coalition of several industry associations, including the ORHMA, representing more than 100,000 businesses in Ontario. The Coalition has worked collaboratively to develop amendments to Bill 144, and has previously provided a copy of these amendments to all Members of the Legislature. An explanatory note of the proposed amendments is attached, for your reference. The ORHMA is seeking your support of these amendments to protect the democratic right of all employees to choose whether or not to join a union. The issue at hand is not unions, but employees' right to choose whether or not to join a union, and to do so by a secret-ballot vote.

The issues addressed in Bill 144 will have serious ramifications in Ontario's workplaces. These issues must be addressed in a public forum. The ORHMA seeks your support in sending this legislation to Standing Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Terry Mundell
President & CEO