

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

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National Restaurant Association Welcomes President's Call for Swift Passage of Economic Stimulus Package

(Washington, DC) * The National Restaurant Association today issued the following statement in response to President Bush's State of the Union address:

"The National Restaurant Association, representing an industry of 945,000 restaurants and 13.1 million employees nationwide, is strongly encouraged by President Bush's urgent call for quick action on the recently-announced economic stimulus package. We commend the bipartisan leadership of President Bush and congressional leaders in providing a timely stimulus to the nation's economy. A healthy economy is vitally important to the restaurant industry and the nation, and we urge swift passage in Congress of this beneficial stimulus deal," said John Gay, senior vice president for government affairs and public policy at the National Restaurant Association.

"Furthermore, the President highlighted the administration's continued focus on providing accessible and affordable health care * a major challenge for our industry and a key benefit to recruiting and retaining our workforce. The President also emphasized his commitment to comprehensive immigration reform. We now look to Congress to work together in a bipartisan manner to enact reform."

Yesterday, the National Restaurant Association sent a letter to the Senate asking senators to strongly support the bipartisan stimulus package and urge its immediate passage without amendment.

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