

Ohio Restaurant Association Statement on the Ohio BWC Board's Approval of a \$1.6 Billion Dividend for Ohio Employers

April 10, 2020

The Ohio Restaurant Association appreciates the efforts of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to assist Ohio employers experiencing the devastating impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Ohio's economy. Ohio's restaurant and foodservice communities are reeling, and every point of relief is helpful. We thank the Ohio BWC Board of Directors for today's approval of the <u>\$1.6 billion dividend for Ohio employers</u> and appreciate the expedited turnaround with checks expected to be mailed in batches to employers later this month.

The Ohio Restaurant Association applauds BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud and the entire BWC board and leadership for continued strong investment strategies allowing this emergency dividend to occur. Ohio's employers are under tremendous cash flow pressure, and providing them with smart business strategies such as delaying premium payments and approving this dividend, equal to approximately 100% of the premiums employers paid in policy year 2018, helps to alleviate cash flow pressure points giving Ohio's businesses a better chance to survive this crisis. Ohio's restaurants remain committed to helping to feed Ohioans, employ Ohioans, and be there to help revive our economy when we emerge together on the other side of this crisis.

John Barker, President and CEO of the Ohio Restaurant Association