So Members of Congress, this year, during the National Restaurant Association’s annual lobbying days on April 29th and 30th, put people, the planet, animal welfare, and the economy before corporations by refusing to accept money from this destructive corporate lobby!

The National Restaurant Association is the lobby of choice for the Fortune 500 restaurant corporations leading our fast food nation. Though the National Restaurant Association likes to showcase small ‘mom and pop’ restaurants, corporate members like McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Starbucks, Wendy’s, Burger King, and the largest full-service restaurant brand in the world, Darden Restaurants Inc. (parent to Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Capital Grille, and many others) -- are running the show.

The National Restaurant Association and its corporate members are:

- Destroying our health. The NRA lobbies aggressively against public health initiatives, including soda taxes, trans fat bans, lowering sodium levels, and regulations that limit marketing to children.

- Destroying our economy. The corporate restaurant industry’s workforce often lives in poverty and needs public assistance to get by. Meanwhile, CEO compensation for the most profitable NRA members has never been higher. Most small business owners, however, support raising the minimum wage and many restaurant owners see supporting their workers and their community as the right - and the smart - thing to do.

- Destroying our democracy. Taking cues from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the NRA has lobbied successfully to pass legislation that prevents localities from getting to vote on paid sick days, stripped states of their right to enact nutrition labeling requirements, and obstructs the advancement of women’s equality by opposing the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, and the Family Medical Leave Act.

The National Restaurant Association has blocked minimum wage increases at federal, state, and local levels – it’s the leading force keeping the federal tipped minimum wage at $2.13 an hour since 1991. Not only do servers use food stamps at double the rate of the rest of the US workforce, they work for the only industry in the world that gets away with saying in effect: as the largest restaurant companies in the country, we shouldn’t have to pay our own workers - customers should with their tips.

We are a broad and growing list of co-signers that includes food system and public health organizations, activists and writers; women’s organizations; workers’ organizations; corporate accountability groups; policymakers, and more.

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