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RAMW Takes Stance on Proposed Virginia Smoking Legislation

There has been an attempt by the Virginia legislators to introduce legislation that would give Northern Virginia county officials the authority to implement smoking bans in restaurants and bars in their own jurisdictions. The Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW) is strongly against this proposed piece-meal legislation, as it would create an unfair advantage for restaurateurs in neighboring counties.

For that reason, even though RAMW is opposed to excessive regulation of business, the Association is in support of Virginia Governor Tim Kaine's legislation introduced on January 8, 2008 to ban smoking in restaurants and bars throughout the state of Virginia.

According to RAMW's board of directors, if the entire state of Virginia implements a smoking ban, the playing field would be leveled for all restaurateurs.

Established in 1920, the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington has more than 600 members in Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. The Association serves as the voice of establishments ranging from casual eateries to internationally-acclaimed fine dining restaurants.

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