

Good Morning Councilmember Graham, thank you for holding this hearing today and for all of your efforts with ABRA. My name is Patrick Horn and I am the Public Policy Advisor and Membership Director for the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW). I am here on behalf of Lynne Breaux, President of RAMW. RAMW is a trade association representing over 600 restaurants and food service industry professionals in DC and in Northern Virginia. In 2005, DC restaurants generated over \$233 million in sales tax alone and employed over 36,000 restaurant workers. Restaurants have contributed greatly to the current resurgence in the District through raising the reputation of DC as a fine dining tourist destination and contributions to the city's coffers. The food and beverage industry in 2004 had a direct fiscal impact of over \$680 Million in the District.¹ Travel and tourism has helped to reenergize Washington, DC. One only has to stroll down F St. and pass the Verizon Center or catch a show and dinner in the U St. corridor to see how strong a resurgence our city is experiencing.

RAMW lauds ABRA for streamlining the ABC license renewal process along with the second and third year payment plan. And as always, RAMW encourages our members to be in compliance with all laws. ABRA successfully enforced ABC compliance throughout the District of Columbia, aided in ABC education, and as mentioned helped to continue to streamline ABC license renewal. This was all accomplished under the capable administration of Marie Delaney. **RAMW supports Mrs. Delaney and her effective leadership of ABRA.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this budget process.

¹ The Economic Impact of Travel & Tourism in Washington, DC, Global Insight