

**PUBLIC HEARING
ON
BILL 17-905
“Trash Compactor Tax Incentive Act of 2008”**

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

**TESTIMONY OF
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Thank you Chairman Evans and members of the committee for this opportunity to present testimony. My name is Lynne Breaux and I am the President of the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW).

Since the inception of the “Community Hygiene Pilot Program” in Georgetown, RAMW members have been actively involved. The stated goal of significantly reducing rodent activity in the pilot area will take a good deal of cooperation between residents, businesses and the DC Department of Health. We feel that the efforts of this coalition have propelled the program towards a workable and effective body of best practices that will vastly improve the public health environment in the pilot community – with one caveat. One particularly important element of the program also presents a particularly onerous obstacle to success in this and future program areas because of significant financial outlay and that is the acquisition and installation of trash compactors.

The proposed Bill 17-905, “The Trash Compactor Incentive Act of 2008”, would give the business community, especially restaurants, the financial incentive and assistance to purchase or lease trash compactors. It must be remembered that restaurants on average operate on an extremely narrow margin of 4% or less. Every new expense whittles away at that slim margin and threatens the viability of the restaurants and consequently the vitality of the neighborhood.

Restaurants are strong supporters of these types of initiatives but are not the sole beneficiaries of their success. Residents and businesses alike must invest in those elements of the program that incur an added financial burden on

the businesses and The Trash Compactor Incentive Act of 2008 is one way of doing just that.

RAMW fully supports the “Community Hygiene Pilot Program” and The Trash Compactor Incentive Act of 2008 as a very necessary complement to this program.