



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Primary Source Document Transcription

Made available through the Rhode Island State Archives

Petition for minimum wage for hotel workers, 1946

In this 1946 petition, workers ask the Department of Labor to raise the minimum wage from 30¢ to 50¢ and to allow workers to keep gratuities.

Petition Biltmore Hotel Employees

We, the undersigned, service employees of the Providence Biltmore Hotel, Inc. hereby petition the Department of Labor to accept the proposal submitted by the Providence hotels that all service employees be guaranteed a minimum salary of 50¢ per hour for each hour worked with the gratuities received by us considered a part of our wages. We ask that this proposal be accepted because we earnestly feel that we will be in a stronger financial position and will be assured of a larger income with a guaranteed minimum hourly wage of 50¢ with the inclusion of gratuities that if the present order was promulgated in which the minimum hourly wage is 30¢ an hour. We have no objection to the inclusion of gratuities in our wages and feel very strongly that the guarantee of 50¢ an hour with the inclusion of gratuities is much more advantageous to us than the proposed minimum wage of 30¢ an hour with the gratuities being excluded.

This primary source comes from the Rhode Island State Archives, Department of Labor, Division of Women and Children, ACC#2003-65.

*This transcript is intended to capture the substance of the document.
For details of capitalization, punctuation, spelling and spacing, we recommend consulting the original document.*