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September 15, 2017

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
333 W. Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

I write to you in support of the Long Beach Working Women: Hospitality Workload and Safety Ordinance. The hospitality industry is strong and growing and serves as one of the most visible industries in our city. Given the positive economic growth of the city and its position geographically in the state of California, we must be cognizant of the physical effects and demands the industry has on our hotel workers.

The City of Long Beach has for many years been a prominent tourist destination and will continue to be in the future. The city welcomes over 67 million attendees and tourists each year, for significant events such as the Grand Prix or the Long Beach Pride, among many other major citywide events. In addition, the city has also been named the “busiest cruise terminal on the west coast”. The projected local economic impact for 2017 will bring an estimated \$668 million over 360 conventions alone in the city. Since 2009, the revenue generated by each hotel room in the city has increase by 36%. Long Beach hotels invest 16 million a year in Transient Occupancy Taxes to the city’s general fund, which is reinvested in the Long Beach community.

However, the working conditions of the employees of the hospitality industry must be improved. We know of the existence of sexual harassment, excessive workloads and mandatory overtime in our Long Beach hotels. Workers should have the right to an environment free of sexual assault, a right to safe workloads and a right to rest.

The City of Long Beach should be a leader in ensuring safe and humane workplaces in our growing tourism sector. I urge you to stand with the working women and men of our Long Beach hotel workforce by supporting the Long Beach Working Women: Hospitality Workload & Safety Ordinance. This ordinance will improve the quality of the workplace for hundreds of our hotel workers by providing protections against inappropriate conduct by guests while also addressing increased workloads and mandatory overtime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Lowenthal".

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress