CONNECTICUT Restaurant ASSOCIATION

38 Hungerford Street – Hartford, CT 06106 – www.ctrestaurant.org
Phone: (860) 278-8008

Testimony before the Public Health Committee
March 15, 2013
SB 990 An Act Concerning Smoking Policies and Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Areas

The Connecticut Restaurant Association represents over 500 restaurants and affiliated businesses across the state. Our members range from quick serve to casual to fine dining establishments. Since Connecticut enacted the ban on smoking in restaurants, customers often smoke outside the restaurant, usually within close proximity of the entrance. Many restaurants also provide a receptacle for customers to use in the areas near the entrance or doorway. Senate Bill 990 would no longer allow those customers to use that area to smoke.

While we neither support nor oppose this proposal, we simply ask the following questions regarding its practicality and implementation:

- Who will be responsible for policing the areas within 25 feet of the outside of any doorway or window?
- Who will be responsible for cleaning up garbage left by smokers 25 feet away from the doorway of a restaurant, which may be on public or private property?
- Will customers be forced to move away from well lit, high traffic areas to smoke?
- There are some neighborhoods: West Hartford Center, downtown New Haven, South Norwalk, where there are several restaurants side by side on street blocks. This leaves little to no option for smokers and again brings up the enforcement and public safety questions.