

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS
REGARDING
DECEMBER 10, 2014 POSTING OF PROPOSED AMMENDED RULES FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF MINIMUM WAGE POLICY FOR NON-TRADE LABOR
SERVICE CONTRACTS - LAGUARDIA AIRPORT, JOHN F. KENNEDY
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Below is a summary of the many comments received regarding proposed amendments to the Rules for Implementation posted to the Port Authority website on December 10, 2014.

- SSP America, Duty Free Americas and HMS Host which are large airport concession operators urged consideration that concession workers be phased-in over a period of time, or subject to a ‘safe harbor’ provision to take effect after expiration or termination of any collective bargaining agreement. SSP commented that union employers shoulder both labor and benefits costs and phasing-in would allow for budgeting and planning, while HMS Host and Duty Free Americas indicated they would have negotiated differently if aware of the pending inclusion of concessions as a covered service. SSP also inquired whether our current street pricing policy would accordingly be changed.
- The NJ Retail Merchants Association strongly opposed the proposed amendments on behalf of their 3,700 members.
- The following elected officials were generally supportive of the wage policy, and specifically advocated for the inclusion of concessions and in-flight catering employees, and recommended adding airport lounge workers to the list of covered services: Sen. Loretta Weinberg (NJ), Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (NJ), Sen. Adriano Espaillat (NY), Sen. James Sanders, Jr. (NY), and Assemblyman Luis R. Sepulveda (NY). Further, Sen. Weinberg and Assemblyman Johnson recommended retroactive implementation of the proposed amendments to January 19, 2015 to include the Martin Luther King holiday.
- The majority of individual comments received supported inclusion of in-flight catering as a covered service.
- Several comments were submitted seeking clarification on certain aspects of the implementation of the current policy.