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## **All-Star Game Hits Home-Run with Twin Cities' Hotel Owners** ***Hotel workers, in contrast, are among lowest paid and most injured***

**Minneapolis, MN (July 14, 2014)** The Twin Cities hotel industry is batting 1.000 as the All-Star Game and festivities bring in an expected 160,000 visitors to the metro area. City officials say the economic impact of the All-Star Game and festivities is projected to hit \$75-million dollars. This is great news for hotel owners who are experiencing post-recession profits however, as a new research report by Minnesota 2020 reveals, accommodations workers are being left behind.

The report, [Growing Profits at Workers' Expense: working conditions of hotel workers in Minnesota's major metropolitan area](#), examines the relationship between hotel profits, worker pain and injury and public subsidies that help maintain the hotel industry. The regions examined are Minneapolis/St. Paul metro, Duluth and Rochester. Throughout the state, there are 72,488 hotel rooms employing thousands of workers in 877 properties.

MN 2020 is calling on the hotel industry to share in the good fortune of a recovering economy with workers who are subjected to low wages and dangerous working conditions. CEO pay for major hotel companies continues to rise to record levels while compensation for hotel workers remain below comparable industries.

Some of the findings include:

- Dramatic cuts in staffing levels have increased hotel profits, but they have led to a larger burden on hotel workers. In Minneapolis, for example, between 2008 and 2011 total revenue increased by 9%, yet total employment in the industry declined by 14%.
- The hardship faced by workers in the accommodation industry, especially in hotels, is disproportionality borne by women and people of color.
- Injury rates within the accommodation industry, specifically with housekeeping staff, are higher than the construction and rail transportation industries.
- Low wages and availability of medical insurance for workers means they rely heavily on public subsidies such as supplemental nutritional aid program (SNAP)

((more))

*“Our analysis of industry data clearly shows that hotels are making choices they do not have to make. Profits have returned, the market is strong and hotels can afford to treat workers better,”* says Lucas Franco, MN 2020 Research Fellow.

MN 2020 believes by working together to address these issues, we can have both a strong economy and healthy employees. Better wages and working conditions, reduction in excessive workloads and minimizing cost-cutting practices that put workers at risk are some immediate steps hotel owners can implement.

*“Minnesota is a great place and hosting events like the All-Star Game can benefit everyone. However, if we are trying to put our best foot forward to the world, worker exploitation is not what we should be known for. Minnesota is better than that,”* adds Steve Fletcher, Minnesota 2020 Executive Director

Download the MN 2020 report: [Growing Profits at Workers' Expense](#)

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