



# Member Update

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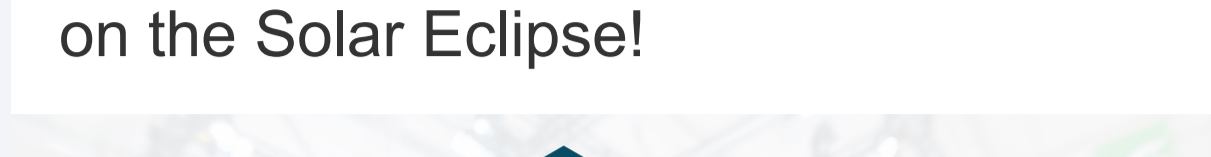
By Tony Burton • Apr 01, 2024

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...836 words

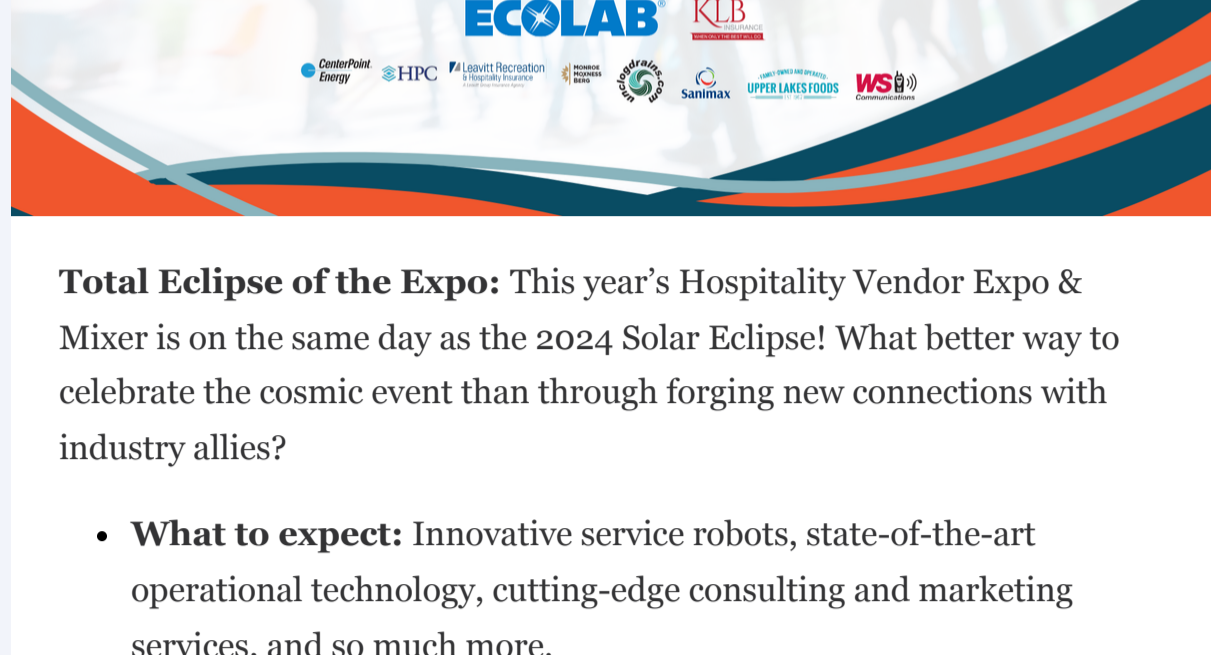
## In today's April 1, 2024 Update:

- Next Week: Hospitality Vendor Expo on the Solar Eclipse!
- Temporary Relief Reached in Visa, Mastercard Swipe Fee Settlement
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## Next Week: Hospitality Vendor Expo on the Solar Eclipse!

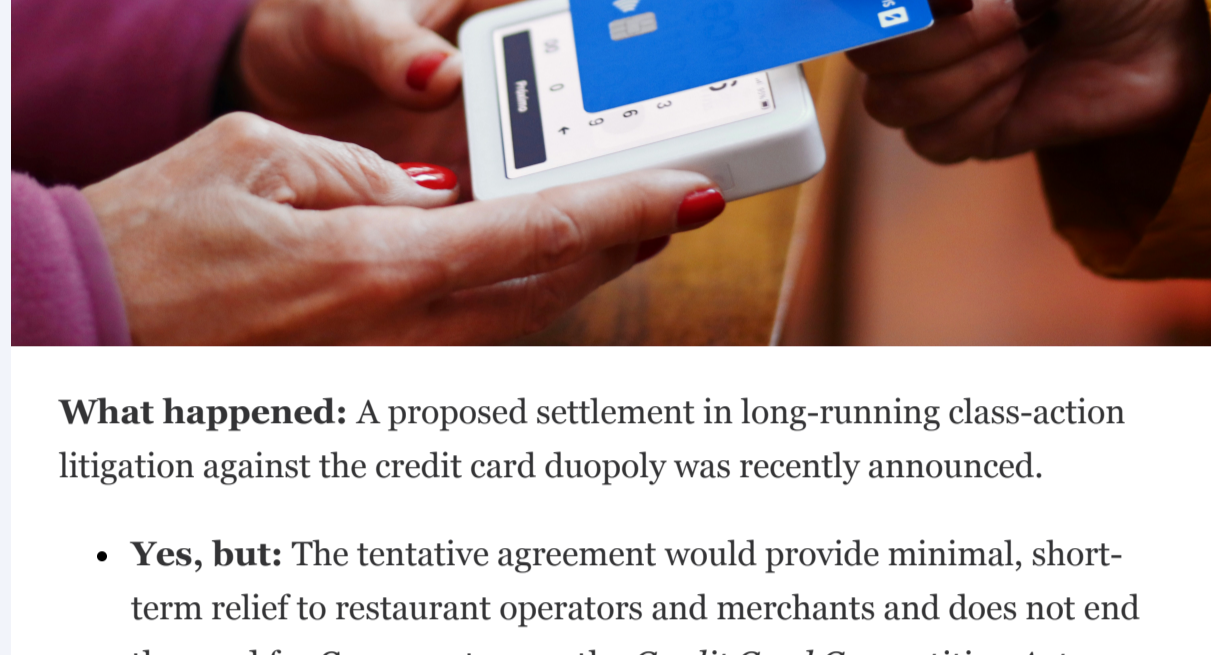


**Total Eclipse of the Expo:** This year's Hospitality Vendor Expo & Mixer is on the same day as the 2024 Solar Eclipse! What better way to celebrate the cosmic event than through forging new connections with industry allies?

- **What to expect:** Innovative service robots, state-of-the-art operational technology, cutting-edge consulting and marketing services, and so much more.
- **The bottom line:** You cannot afford to miss this event.

[Register here!](#)

## Temporary Relief Reached in Visa, Mastercard Swipe Fee Settlement



**What happened:** A proposed settlement in long-running class-action litigation against the credit card duopoly was recently announced.

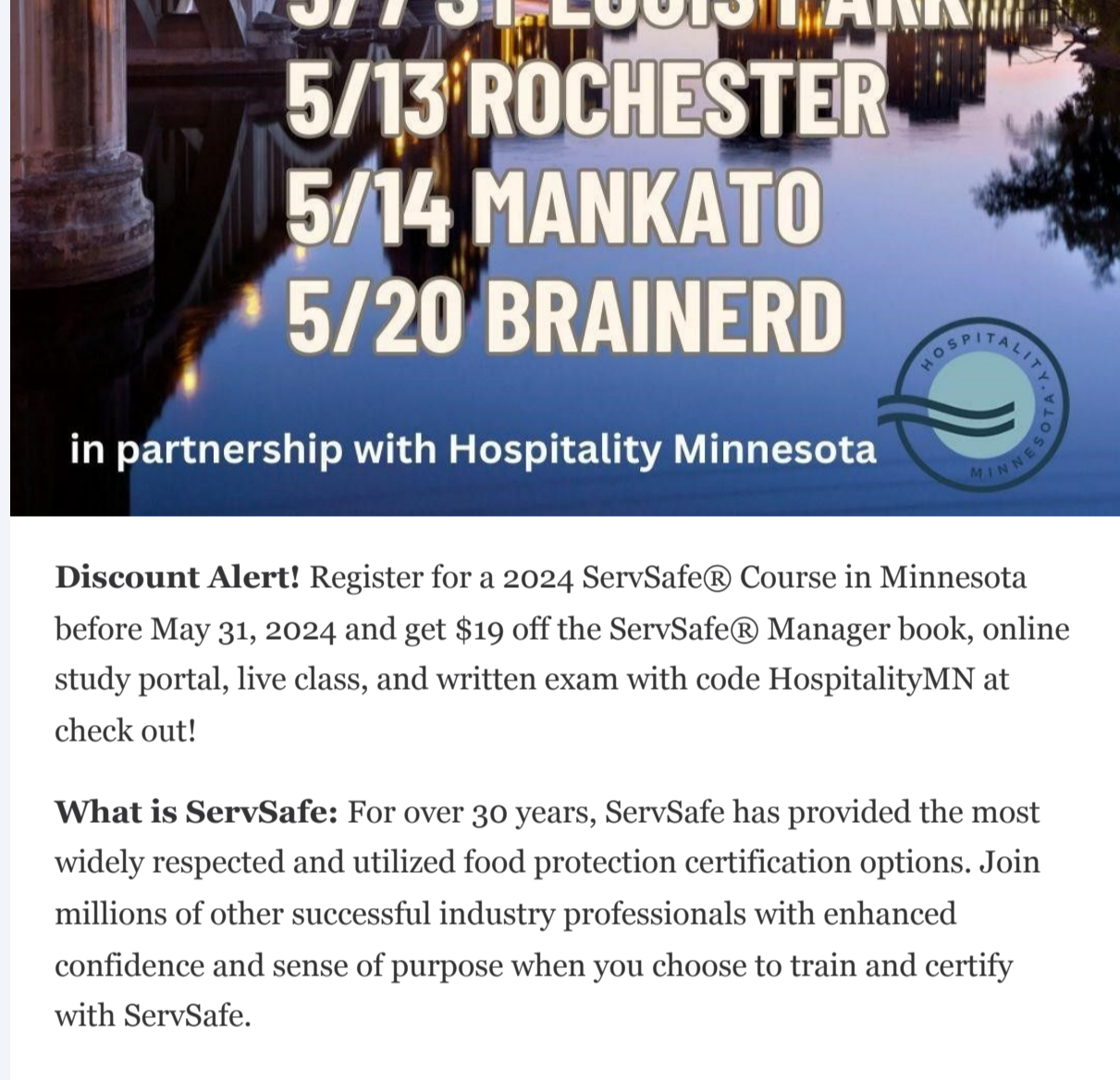
- **Yes, but:** The tentative agreement would provide minimal, short-term relief to restaurant operators and merchants and does not end the need for Congress to pass the *Credit Card Competition Act*.

**Dive deeper:** [The proposal](#) creates 3 separate "brakes" on swipe fees through rollbacks or fee caps over the next 5 years.

- Visa and Mastercard will roll back the posted swipe fee of every merchant by at least 4 basis points for at least 3 years.
- For 5 years, Visa and Mastercard will not raise the swipe fees of any merchant above the posted rates that existed as of Dec. 31, 2023.
- For 5 years, the average effective systemwide swipe fee for Visa and Mastercard must be at least 7 basis points below the current average rate of 2.26%.

**The bottom line:** This agreement would provide a temporary discount on ever-increasing swipe fees before allowing the credit card duopoly to resume business as usual.

## DISCOUNT ALERT - Register for ServSafe® Before 5/31 and Save!

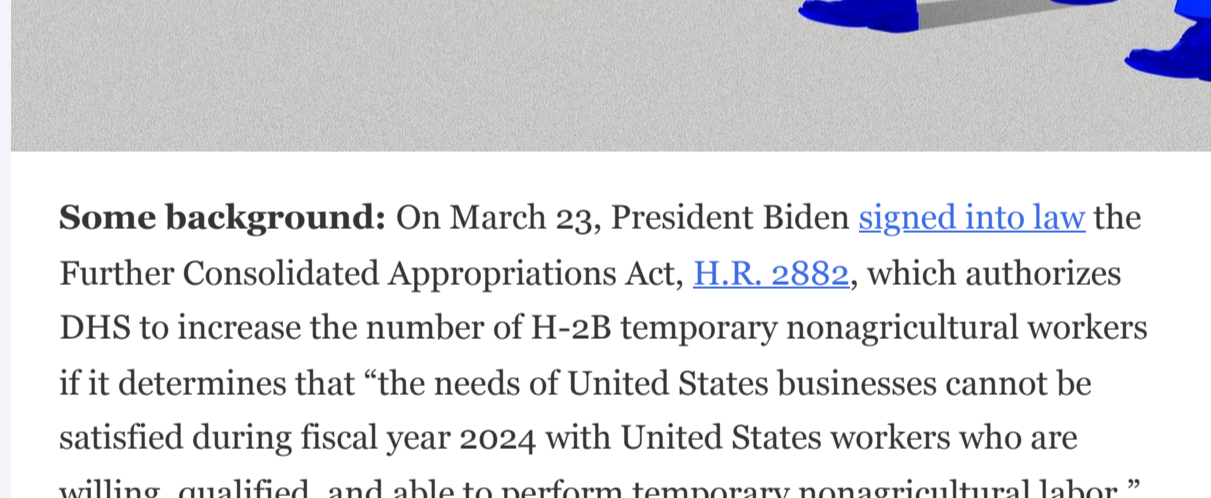


**Discount Alert!** Register for a 2024 ServSafe® Course in Minnesota before May 31, 2024 and get \$19 off the ServSafe® Manager book, online study portal, live class, and written exam with code HospitalityMN at check out!

**What is ServSafe:** For over 30 years, ServSafe has provided the most widely respected and utilized food protection certification options. Join millions of other successful industry professionals with enhanced confidence and sense of purpose when you choose to train and certify with ServSafe.

- **Go deeper:** [Click here for Minnesota's ServSafe class schedule.](#)

## DHS Expands H-2B Visa Availability to Aid Workforce Shortage



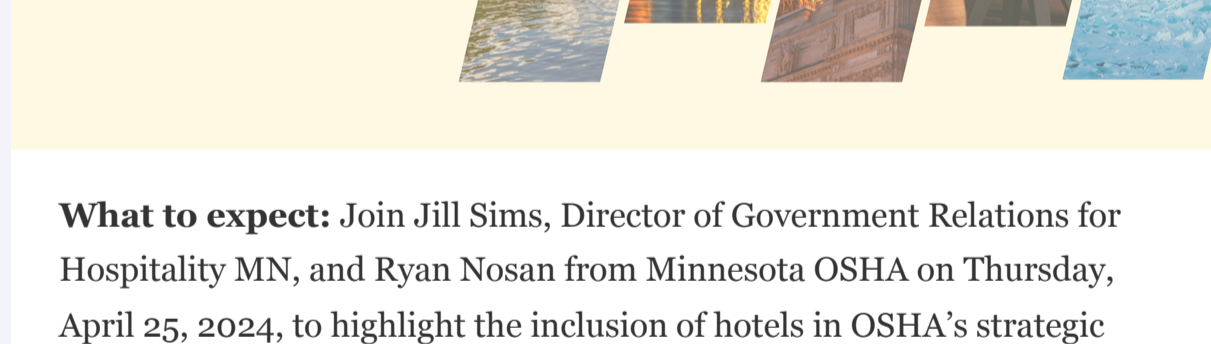
**Some background:** On March 23, President Biden [signed into law](#) the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, [H.R. 2882](#), which authorizes DHS to increase the number of H-2B temporary nonagricultural workers if it determines that "the needs of United States businesses cannot be satisfied during fiscal year 2024 with United States workers who are willing, qualified, and able to perform temporary nonagricultural labor."

- **Why it matters:** Upon making that determination, DHS can approve an expansion of the H-2B visa pool by nearly 65,000 visas. These extra visas will be crucial to helping hotels and resorts fill seasonal roles.

**By the numbers:**

- There are currently [more than 80,000 hotel jobs open](#) in the U.S., according to Indeed. And as of January, there were [8.9 million job openings](#) in the United States and only [6.1 million available workers](#) to fill those jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Register for April Operating Now on Hotel Workplace Safety Consulting

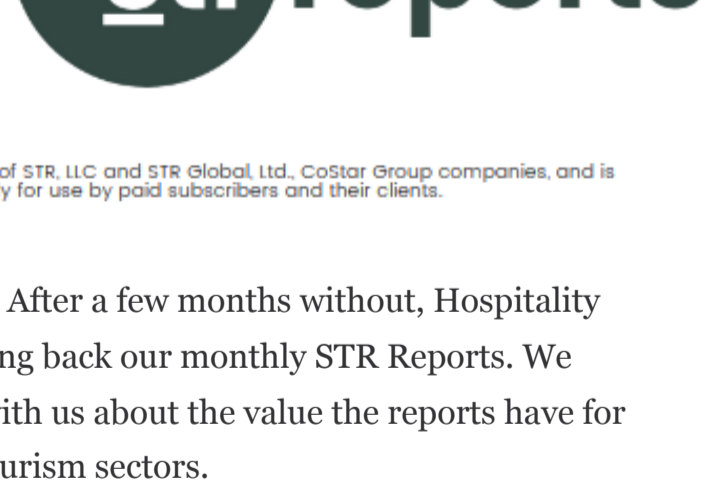
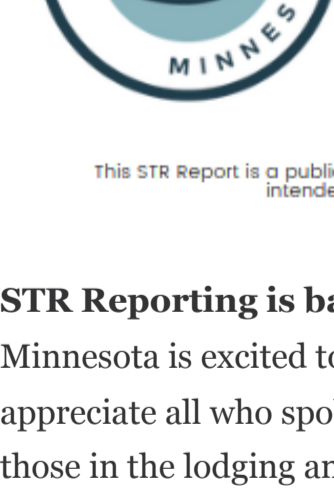


**What to expect:** Join Jill Sims, Director of Government Relations for Hospitality MN, and Ryan Nosan from Minnesota OSHA on Thursday, April 25, 2024, to highlight the inclusion of hotels in OSHA's strategic plan and more.

- **Why it matters:** This month's Operating Now provides operators with an opportunity to understand and carry out OSHA's strategic plan for hotel operations.

[Register here!](#)

## Hospitality Minnesota Revamps STR Reporting



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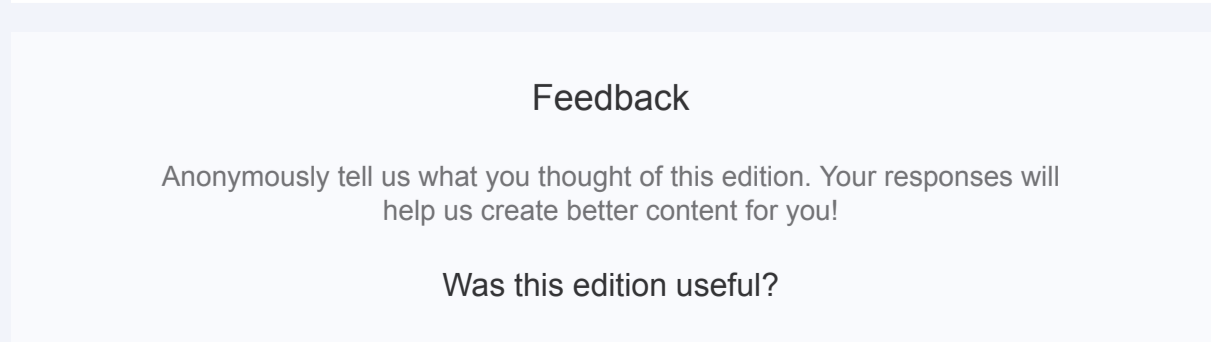
**STR Reporting is back:** After a few months without, Hospitality Minnesota is excited to bring back our monthly STR Reports. We appreciate all who spoke with us about the value the reports have for those in the lodging and tourism sectors.

**What is STR?** STR, or STR, Inc. is a division of [CoStar Group](#) that provides market data on the hotel industry worldwide, including occupancy, ADR comparisons, and more!

- **Go deeper:** We've added the past 3 months of Minnesota's STR reports to the member portal. [Log in now](#) to review!

## In the News

- [Minneapolis business owner concerned loss rideshare services](#) | WCCO
- [How do specialty food brands make it in times of inflation?](#) | Star Tribune
- [Here's how Uber and Lyft are trying to get their way in Minneapolis and the rest of Minnesota](#) | Star Tribune
- [New bill to ease small business regulations](#) | Key C



**See you back here next week!**

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