

To the Editor,

My name is Joe Kalil and I'm the owner of Home Team Pub in Liverpool, NY. The reason I'm reaching out is to share the current state of affairs in the restaurant and bar/pub industry. As many are aware, the pandemic has wreaked havoc on restaurants and bars around the country. Many have been forced to shut their doors permanently. I'm one of the lucky ones that has been able to keep my head above water due to my loyal customers.

However, there is a new threat facing restaurant and bar owners and all who work in the industry, including servers. There is a global shortage of semi-conductor chips that is having a huge effect on my industry. POS or Point of Sale machines are crucial for restaurants and bars. These machines require chips. They are how a customer's order gets to the kitchen in order for the kitchen staff, or bartenders to fill those orders. Without POS machines, servers would be required to do everything manually and/or physically communicate with the kitchen a customer's order, leaving much room for human error and a long wait for customers to get their food and/or drink. You may have noticed a few restaurants using QR codes allowing customers to place their orders themselves right from their table. This is due to the lack of POS machines because of the chip shortage.

The other issue with the semi-conductor chips is the effect it can have on server and bartender jobs. If customers are able to order themselves, why would there be a need for a server? The less number of servers, the less POS machines you'll need. I've heard that White Pine Commerce Park is hoping to attract a large semi-conductor chip manufacturer. This would be an invaluable asset to our area. I believe there are currently no chip fabs in the US. I fully support this project. I'm located approximately 2 miles from the site, and although I have heard some residents are upset about the prospect, I can tell you as someone who is feeling the detrimental effect not having semi-conductor chips available is having on the industry, they should really consider the impact this would have on so many people and businesses.

Thank you.

Joe Kalil