

The Buckeye Inn
4420 East Buckeye Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53716 (608)-222-8366

Common Council Meeting
September 20, 2005

For the record I would like to point out that I have not received any money for any of my efforts in regards to the smoking ban. I am very passionate about my career, and my presence at yet another meeting should speak volumes.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify today and to speak on behalf of the many workers employed by this tavern regarding our very serious concerns over your imminent vote on the smoking ban.

I have worked for The Buckeye Inn for the last decade, starting as the assistant manager, and after six years became its general manager. Peter Zilley, the owner, assumed a back-seat, completely off-premise role in the daily running of the Buckeye ten years ago. I am on the board of directors for the Madison-Dane County Tavern League, and I am also co-chair for The Coalition to Save Madison Jobs.

In the last 4 ½ years I have been able to make The Buckeye Inn into a thriving business, changing the image and clientele from a "problem bar" as it was known, into a place without age or class lines. Our patrons consist of very old to the very young, blue collar to white collar. We've provided good jobs for many people. Roughly 85% of our patrons smoke cigarettes, and the other 15% don't object to it because of our quality fresh air system.

The dangers of second hand smoke have been well publicized since the 1970's. It is a choice that people, by their own volition make. All but one of our employees smokes cigarettes, and did so prior to working here.

I understand the pressures placed on you by the anti-smoking lobby and I respect the challenges you face in your decision. But I'd like to remind you that all we are asking for is a level playing field. This is not like the California smoking ban where the weather is nice year round and the law

applies to everyone. The reality in Madison is that if patrons of bars like the Buckeye cannot smoke here, and can do so 1 mile away, they will surely do so. If we are to have a smoking ban, it should be done state wide so not to penalize bar owners simply for having incorporated in the City of Madison and not in Monona. When the cold weather hits come winter people won't be stepping outside for a cigarette, they won't come at all.

Displacing people from their jobs has become a form of "collateral damage" in this debate. I can assure you these people's livelihoods have a great deal of significance down to the families they support.

Throughout the last several months, our motivations have been repeatedly put in question. There are those who have alleged that the situation is not as grave as we have presented. But, the real life numbers clearly refute this.

DO THE MATH.

Gross Sales July 2004: \$56,392.46 Gross Sales July 2005: \$43,373.31

Difference: -\$13,019.15

Gross Sales August 2004: \$58,084.57 Gross Sales August 2005: \$41,519.72

Difference: -\$16,564.85

Sales Tax July 2004: \$1969.88 Sales Tax July 2005: \$1354.10

Difference: \$615.78

Sales Tax August 2004: \$2,592.86 Sales Tax August 2005: \$1,645.71

Difference: \$947.15

The bottom line is the tax base. Where will the City of Madison find the money to replace what has been lost to other communities? Will you then have to raise taxes, and for whom?

*****WE HAVE ALSO CUT HOURS DRAMATICALLY*****

Employee Hours Cut (based on the same seven employees):

Total Hours July 2004: 967.25

Total Hours July 2005: 827.25

Difference: 140 hours lost

Total Hours August 2004: 970.5

Total Hours August 2005: 652.5

Difference: 318 hours lost

My kitchen manager resigned August 5, 2005. He worked a total of 131.5 hours July 2004, and 131 hours August 2004. The month of July 2005 thru August 5, 2005; he worked a total of 117.25 hours. I absorbed his position which includes all inventory, purchasing, and preparing/serving lunch Monday thru Friday. My work week has doubled with less pay.

If Oscar Meyer Foods displaced 400 jobs, the entire city would be looking to our Mayor for an explanation; and they would be looking to him to rectify the situation.

EVERYONE'S WORK IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

The fact that this is an economic issue is lost on so many.

How long do people have to suffer, and to what degree?

How many jobs need to be lost before you will hear us?

Before you vote tonight, I respectfully urge you to remember the tax paying bar workers of the City of Madison whose lives will be changed irreparably for the worse should you decide to vote against the repeal.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Telvick

Director/Agent/G.M.