

Hello Sara,

I met you when you were running for office and came through my neighborhood just off Monroe St. I did not think that I would be writing you so soon!

At that time, you said that you shared my concern in working for public health. I am a nurse practitioner and work on faculty at the School of Nursing at UW.

Right now, I am concerned about the proposal to have an outside wood smoker for a BBQ restaurant in a dense residential neighborhood. As we know, smoke can trigger allergies, asthma, and as a consequence, more respiratory infections. Given that asthma has become a leading chronic childhood illness, I would want to prevent adding to suffering from this problem. As someone who likes to walk and bike most days, I have asthma too and would like to live a healthy lifestyle without fearing more problems of local air pollution.

Furthermore, there are realistic long term health problems that could be more serious from wood smoke. We do not know the long term chances of more serious problems. Our own Environmental Protection Agency cautions people about exposure to such smoke. And, my experience with the EPA is that they are unlikely to suggest serious health threats until there is extremely strong evidence for the same.

Please partner with us in opposing any introduction of air pollution in our neighborhood.

Thanks for serving as Alder,  
Diane Lauver