

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Dear Madison Common Council,

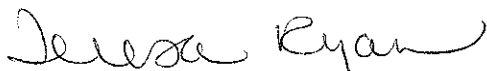
My name is Teresa Ryan, and wants to let you know, that even though I am from Waunakee, I strongly support the current Madison smoking ban. The current ordinance sets a strong, positive message that our government wants to protect the health and well being of people who work in Madison as well as residents in Madison and surrounding areas. My family and neighbors are frequenting Madison restaurants and bars more than ever. Last Wednesday evening, eleven neighbors and I, from Waunakee, went to Eno Vinos and one of the main attractions was that it was smoke free. More importantly, when we go out to eat, my husband and I will drive to a Madison restaurant where we can have a beer and also be in a smoke free atmosphere for the sake of our nine month old daughter. I know these are only a few examples, but from our experience and conversations with others, many people our community is happy with how the current smoke free Madison ordinance.

I don't consider staff of restaurants and bars wearing "Ban the Ban" t-shirts or passing out anti smoking ban petitions to customers very enticing to those that support and enjoy the smoke free environment. The businesses had 14 months to work on changing business plans and getting positive promotions to their current and potential customers prior to the implementation of this ordinance. Many other communities have passed and implemented similar ordinances in much less time and have been successful.

However, and most importantly, the success of this ban can not be measured in dollars but in the potential lives and illnesses that will be prevented from working or visiting Madison's smoke free workplaces now and in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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