

Dear Alderpersons,

We write to you as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Disability Rights Commission on File #56836, a proposed ordinance to regulate the distribution of plastic straws in the City of Madison. The Disability Rights Commission unanimously voted to oppose this ordinance change due to its negative impact on individuals with disabilities in the City of Madison.

On July 25th, the Commission heard about the proposal from Alder Abbas and Engineering Sustainability Manager Stacie Reece before it was introduced to the Common Council. At that meeting, Commissioners raised concerns both about the intended implementation and the ideas behind it. Text of the proposed ordinance was not provided at the time.

At the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, text for the proposal made clear to the Commission that none of the concerns or suggestions raised during the July meeting were taken into consideration. In addition at the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, which provided an opportunity for public input on the proposal which resulted in unanimous opposition by those who testified, the Commission was informed by Alder Abbas that there would be additional changes made to the proposal before or during consideration by the entire Common Council.

Without seeing any of these proposed changes nor having the text of any amendments before us, we felt we had no choice but to vote, unanimously, against the proposed ordinance.

In accordance with Madison General Ordinance Section 39.04 and as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Disability Rights Commission, we write to you with the concerns that the Commission and the members of the public have raised about the proposed straw ban ordinance. As indicated by the vote of the Commission, as written, there are numerous concerns about the impacts this proposed ordinance would have on individuals with disabilities.

We are unable to provide any concrete feedback on a proposal which is set to be amended after moving through our Commission. Prior to consideration of this item by the full Common Council, we would appreciate the opportunity to re-examine the proposal after any amendments are offered. We ask, respectfully, that this item be re-referred to the Disability Rights Commission before the Council takes its final actions on the matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, we hope that you will consider this letter and explanation of the actions taken by the Disability Rights Commission relating to File #56836.

Sincerely,

Bella Sobah, Chair  
Disability Rights Commission

Will Ringland, Vice-Chair