

Dear City of Madison Alcohol License Review Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of renewing the Class B Combination Liquor & Beer License (Agenda Item 5) and the 18+ Center for Visual and Performing Arts License (Agenda Item 6) for Red Rooster Madison LLC.

As an award-winning musician, UW–Madison graduate, and former chemistry lecturer at the university, I've enjoyed performing at the Red Rooster and connecting with my students and fans there.

I am now based in Kansas City, a city known for its rich Blues legacy, and as a semifinalist in the 2025 International Blues Challenge, I've seen how vital it is for cities to preserve spaces that keep this genre alive. The **Red Rooster is one of Madison's only true Blues venues**, and from my national perspective, it's a rare gem.

Although I don't drink alcohol, the Red Rooster is my top choice for my blues shows when I'm on tour, because of its welcoming and inclusive environment.

The tragedy last December was heartbreaking, but in my experience, the venue is run with care and accountability. I believe it deserves the chance to continue serving Madison communities.

Please renew these licenses and allow the Red Rooster to continue being a vital community space in Madison.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelsey Miles

Award-Winning Musician & Songwriter

Semifinalist, 2025 International Blues Challenge

Former Chemistry Lecturer, UW–Madison