

Dear Members of the Alcohol License Renewal Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Red Rooster Madison, LLC, and to request the renewal of their liquor and entertainment licenses (agenda items 5 and 6 for the upcoming meeting).

I have read about the issues that have arisen, particularly the tragic and deeply saddening fatal accident that resulted from a former bar manager driving intoxicated. I also understand there were other violations, such as those concerning the display of the liquor license, unlicensed bartenders, and operating past authorized hours. I take these matters very seriously, and I understand that there must be significant consequences.

However, I earnestly hope you will consider an outcome that does not involve the permanent closure of the Red Rooster. Such an action would be a significant loss, not only to the owner Mr. Payne but also to many of us within the local music community. I sincerely believe the owner has learned from these grave mistakes and will take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance and responsible operation moving forward. Perhaps a strict probationary period with clearly defined conditions could offer a viable path?

My band has performed at the Red Rooster regularly, and it has been an invaluable venue for us and numerous other local musicians. It is one of the very few establishments in our city where smaller, local bands can perform on a proper stage with adequate sound equipment for a live audience. Most other venues are either small coffee shops lacking the appropriate facilities or large arenas that host major touring acts. The Red Rooster fills a crucial niche, providing local artists with opportunities to develop, gain exposure, and share their music.

For this reason, the Red Rooster is a vital component of Madison's vibrant music scene. It is a place where local culture flourishes.

While I acknowledge the serious missteps that have occurred, I have significant confidence that, if given the opportunity, the Red Rooster can rectify these issues and continue to

operate as a safe, responsible, and exceptionally valuable asset for our city's musicians and music enthusiasts. I sincerely urge you to provide them with that opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Hurley, PhD