



The Honorable Zack Stephenson, Chair
Minnesota House Commerce Committee
Room 509, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1232

Re: Ally Restaurants testimony on HF 1192 (Olson)

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Committee:

I am the co-owner and operating partner of 3 restaurants located in Plymouth (2015), Maple Grove (2018) and St. Paul (2018). My partner and I are actively involved in the communities in which we do business; supporting schools, churches, charitable organizations and local governments of those cities. We believe that being a contributing business to the health and growth of our communities is a core responsibility of ours. We do not have investors and have built our company through hard work and dedication.

With that said, I have worked tirelessly over the past 18 months to remain a viable business and to keep our doors open. Prior to the pandemic, we were a growing company that employed over 150 people. Today we are struggling to return to pre-pandemic sales and staffing. We have applied for RRF but did not receive funding. Our PPP money is dwindling and we continue to look for ways to return to profitability. We are proud of the products we serve, utilizing local providers as much as we can including local farmers, craft brewers and distillers. We serve our communities responsibly and would benefit greatly by being able to provide all of our products to our guests for takeout and home consumption.

I implore you and your peers to allow us to sell packaged cocktails, beer and wine to our guests, so that we can compete in the post pandemic economy. We have proven we can do it responsibly and need to be able to continue to pivot our offerings to serve our guests how they want to be served. Our state's liquor laws were outdated prior to the pandemic and now need to be adjusted to the post pandemic consumer trends. Please help us to continue to be a valued business in our community so that we may continue to serve those less fortunate than ourselves.

Sincerely,

Troy Reding
Owner
Ally Restaurants
Orono | 108 Employees