

November 13, 2012

Over the past year working in DC, I have gotten to know some of DC's more passionate entrepreneurs - DC food truck owners. The food truck owners are excited to be part of the DC community, they are passionate about their businesses, and they work hard every day to serve their customers.

With the new proposed regulations, I will face reduced lunch choices and variety. Without food trucks, I would bring my lunch every day. Food trucks provide a unique lunch experience each day. Where else in DC can you find a Hawaiian steak sandwich or goat cheese mac and cheese for an affordable lunch?

Food Trucks in DC have created a great community that brings together people from across the DMV. Events like Truckeroo and Curbside Cookoff are unique events that have become a staple of the DC food community.

It is important that the DC government promote the entrepreneurial spirit of food truck owners, not stifle them. Three food truck owners have gone on to start brick and mortar restaurants and three food truck owners have opened up kiosks at Union Market. While these six have seen their food trucks launch brick and mortar restaurants, they won't be the last.

Food truck owners are here for the long haul. They are in DC to be part of the community and to serve the community. They are not just building their businesses in DC, they are building their lives here.

The proposed regulations will ban food trucks from 8 of the 10 most popular lunch destinations and they leave the DDOT with unrestricted power to regulate food trucks. We need specific, defined rules that promote use of public space without restricting the entrepreneurial spirit that has allowed DC startups to thrive.

The food truck owners are some of the most inspiring people I have gotten to know because of their passion for food and the DC community. I strongly urge you to redraft rules that work for food trucks and the DC community.

Best,

Camden Lee