

November 13, 2012

Mr. Helder Gil  
Legislative Affairs Specialist  
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs  
1100 Fourth Street SW  
Room 5164  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Gil,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kristina Kern and I am the sole owner of Stella\*s PopKern, a snack truck that operates M-F during the lunch hour in DC. In addition, we do catering during the week and on weekends.

After much research and thought, I decided to launch a food truck in February of this year. I was initially going in the direction of a brick and mortar establishment, and as a single mother, decided that would be too risky since I could've had the potential to lose my only asset at the time, my home. Opening a food truck to really test market my product in DC was a viable option and one I took. Mr. Gil, creating this business from nothing is an achievement that I am so proud of and I relish in the fact that I am able thus far to sustain it and watch it flourish. It took approximately five months of sweat and tears to build my truck out to get it on the road. It is the hardest project I've ever engaged in, but also the most rewarding. I am proud to say that I employ one person and am looking to bring on another now.

Mr. Gil, my fellow food truck owners and myself bring culinary vibrancy, employment opportunities, tax revenue and a cultural spirit to our wonderful city. I love DC and have been a resident for 23 years now. DC food trucks add to the already diverse fabric of our great city. I know that our customers look forward to the camaraderie that exists while standing in line waiting to get their lunch/snacks, and I am lucky enough to be a part of their satisfaction. I get so excited daily as I watch my customer's faces when they consume my product.

The proposed regulations will seriously affect all of us and quite frankly put most, if not all of us, out of business. Mr. Gil, I have a 10 year old daughter and I am relying on my truck to sustain us. If I can't operate in the higher trafficked vending areas in DC, as I am currently allowed to do, I will have to shut my business down. Needless to say, this will be detrimental to my daughter and myself.

Mr. Gil, I appeal to you to hear what I, my fellow food truck owners and our customers have to say. The proposed regulations, as stated, will shut down many viable businesses and hurt many families in the process.

Regards,

Kristina Kern  
Stella\*s PopKern