

April 4, 2013

With the proposed food truck lottery system and location restrictions, the people of the District would lose out. Why impose these protectionist measures? DC, don't squelch this successful, creative trend. The food trucks distinguish our city and they are providing much-appreciated quality and variety. These regulations would regulate them out of business.

Sincerely,

Leah Werchick
1938 Billtmore St NW
WDC 20009

April 4, 2013

I think this is absolutely ridiculous. The last thing we need is a new regulation to make things more difficult for consumers. The food trucks offer more variety and more convenience than most "brick and mortar" establishments. Let the food trucks operate where they want! Keep the government out of it!

Thank you.

Kevin Mohler

April 4, 2013

In a world of a constantly changing and disappearing culture, food trucks have become an outlet not only for creativity but an outlet for freedom of speech and freedom of expression. These small businesses are taking advantage of the American Dream and to deny them that by imposing these regulations and forcing them out of the DC area- or out of business- is ridiculous and a complete failure on the part of our government. If we are to continue such regulations we will be helping to destroy a culture that has so craftily adapted to the new city lifestyle. You should not punish these people for the city they did not create. Human are meant to adapt and you are putting up safeguards to prevent that. This could easily be seen as unconstitutional and if you alienate enough of the food truck community you may be seeing more than just a few grumpy emails. My concern is not only for these small businesses, but also how the citizens view you. I am quite worried you may be biting the hand of your strongest allies!

Mariah Lewis

April 4, 2013

Aloha! I am with Maui Wowi -- I own a food truck that is licensed in DC.

I SUPPORT THE PROPOSED CHANGES

I personally would LOVE to have a vending spot that I could park in -- the parking challenges with food trucks is enormous.

I find the way that the current rules are administered very unfair. The reality is that the food trucks DO NOT follow the rules as they are now. The law states that you can't just park and wait for a customer to come to you. You have to be "contacted", then serve your customer, then leave. THIS IS NOT HAPPENING.

I brought my truck downtown on a weekend and I had a police officer literally threaten to take my license because we were didn't have a customer at our truck and "per the rules" we have to leave. I told him that trucks sit on Farragut Square and all around DC every day and they are never asked to move. He admitted they do not follow the rules and that it is "political". Well after that experience, I put my license on hold and have not been back down.

I feel that I bring a valuable service to the workers and visitors in the city. I have always been disappointed with the "ugly white trailers" that serve nothing but unhealthy stuff and it's all the same. Those vendors have assigned spots -- I think the trucks should too.

I hope new laws will be implemented that support food trucks being in DC -- the current regulations aren't working.

Stacey Riska

April 4, 2013

All this week, the internet has been buzzing about the possible new food truck regulations that DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs is planning to put into place. I don't really have a lot to say; I don't live in DC, and only began working there about a year ago. However, I can say with some certainty that these regulations would defeat the purpose of a food truck, not to mention suck the fun and variety out of opting for lunch from a truck instead of a

restaurant. I honestly believe that DC food trucks took a hit (albeit a small one) when they were required to begin adding the sales tax to the price of their items. However, that was a fair policy; food trucks are retail businesses, so it made sense for them to charge the DC sales tax. On the other hand, these zoning regulations are arbitrary and serve no one except for the brick and mortar restaurants in competition with the food trucks. I'd say that is an unfair disadvantage to what is obviously an extremely popular trend in the DMV. The zones proposed will inconvenience potential customers and ultimately drive the food trucks out of DC or worse, out of business. While the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs claims that these regulations are for the good of the truck operators and customers, there is not a single person who is into the food truck scene that agrees. That consideration is something that seems to be missing from your analysis for what would be the best next step.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Collins

April 4, 2013

I write to voice my opposition to the proposed food truck regulations. I work near Farragut Square and am a frequent customer of the several of the better food trucks that operate there. The proposed regulations, clearly designed to protect poorly run restaurants that do not offer good food, are ill conceived and will destroy the vibrancy of downtown DC. Many restaurants in our area are thriving, with lines much longer than those at the food trucks. These restaurants do not need economic protection. Those restaurants that do not attract enough business should improve their product, and thereby increase their business, or they should shut down. I and others should not be forced to buy lunch at crappy restaurants because the lines at the good ones, which are already long, get even longer if the trucks are no longer an option.

Farragut Square is a lunch destination. People come there, and deal with the crowds on the sidewalks because it is worth it to them, and many relish the opportunity to eat in the park. Please do not limit the food truck options at Farragut Square, or similarly situated food truck locations, to protect and benefit restaurants that are unable to compete.

Stephen Bogorad

April 4, 2013

I'm writing in opposition of the proposed vending regs currently up for considerations. Specifically I take issue with the proposed "vending zones" and lottery system. These proposed regs do not benefit the public in any way and do a lot to limit opportunities for individuals to exercise choice and to create new businesses and job opportunities.

These regulations do more to protect the business interests of downtown restaurants that offer mediocre options than they do to "achieve the safe, efficient, and effective management of vending throughout the District of Columbia."

If the goal is to limit the ability for vendors, specifically food trucks, to run successful businesses then these regs are great. As a consumer, I think these regulations are terrible and would like them to be reconsidered.

Tax the trucks, license them, monitor them, but don't prohibit them from working under the guise of public safety when there are no safety issues.

Thanks,
Mike Zuerblis

April 4, 2013

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed vending regulations for food trucks in the District of Columbia. As someone who lives and works in the District, these food trucks benefit me not only by providing more food choices, but by boosting tax revenue and increasing the livelihood and diversity of our great city. Their increase in popularity has become very beneficial not only to District residents and workers, but also to tourist who have seen DC food trucks featured on television, in print media, and online. These food trucks have themselves become an attraction that is important to how visitors see our city.

I urge the committee overseeing this legislation to consider how important food trucks have become in DC and how the proposed legislation will impact those seeking greater food choices and the small business owners operating these mobile restaurants. As the capital city of a country that prides itself on ingenuity and entrepreneurship, it seems extremely contrary to impose such restrictive regulations on small businesses.

Thank you,

Danielle Talbott
Ward 3 resident
