

To whom it may concern,

In the history of great civilizations, street food has always had an important place as a key source for social, economic, and cultural improvement. Milwaukee is no exception, as it is home to burgeoning street food communities across the city. Julian Agyeman, an urban policy professor who has studied food trucks' impact on cities, describes these communities as a "a powerful affirmation of pop-up urbanism." They are spaces "where ordinary people, not urban planners, create moments in time and space that capture the popular imagination, and of what we call cultural place-making."

Historically our communities have been composed of majority immigrant populations, and/or other marginalized communities, and face language, political and social barriers when trying to navigate regulatory processes. After many discussions with members of the common council, it became evident that the proposed legislation has been created to ensure the preservation and growth of our vibrant street food communities. Street food vendors face many challenges, and this legislation will help create structure to further advance them in their business. Therefore, I support the introduction of this legislation.

It is important to note, that we must continue to work in tandem with the Mayor's office plus the Police, Public Health, and Public Works Departments on improved enforcement efforts to support and encourage members adopting the new legislation.

Animo,

Jesus Gonzalez  
Co-Owner Zocalo Food Park