



September 26, 2017

The Mancini family has owned and operated Mancini's Bar and Charhouse for seventy years. We provide good business, a solid tax base, and union employment for over 80 people who live in and around the St. Paul Area. We are proud to be a restaurant tradition in St. Paul. We ask that you please oppose the proposed food packaging ordinance. The Ordinance would do excessive damage to the restaurant industry in St. Paul.

The proposed ban on foam take-out containers and black plastic recyclables is not a zero-waste solution. The ban is strictly focused on our industry. You legislate against the small business while you exempt larger businesses. The big box stores, with their prepackaged frozen meals, produce thousands of meal containers. Consumers dispose these into the trash weekly in almost every office, business and employee lunchroom in the City of St. Paul, and yet you exempt this industry completely.

In 70 years as a family business owner we have worked with countless Mayors and City Councils and we have been a happy partner with our city government. But this latest round of ordinances has created a huge disconnect between the City Council and our industry. Restaurant owners in our city should be supported for the contributions we make to our community, but we feel we are under attack by St. Paul with new ordinances covering everything from mandatory benefits, to minimum wage increases and shouldering the costs of more expensive garbage.

This ordinance is nothing more than feel good legislation; to follow Minneapolis, with an ordinance here that is as prejudicial as it was there. The ban will not reduce or eliminate waste. We must replace these containers with something else, at a greater cost with even more packaging. The foam containers and black plastic are a simple solution, one unit; food loaded, closed... done. It mostly eliminates bags, and multiple containers for multiple foods. This is an attempt again to force a change in a single industry, with a minimal impact on polluting or waste. The regulations will continue to load unneeded administrative cost, squander enforcement dollars and ultimately cost restaurant owners, employees and customer (guests) more money.

The restaurant industry has been largely left out of the discussion. Wouldn't it be better to work together to find a solution; and recycle our current disposables? Increased regulation has cost us business due to the increased cost passed on to our customers. Mancini's has lost groups, and banquets when they have chosen to host their gatherings elsewhere due to increase cost passed on to customers in St. Paul. Please oppose this discriminatory packaging ban and work with us to find solutions. Our industry is committed to help provide a clean environment.

Respectfully,

Patrick Mancini