

**Name:** Afeworki Bein

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Snelling Cafe

**Address:** 638 North Snelling Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**Ward:** 4

**Number of Employees:** 1

**How long have you operated this business?** 14 years

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** It is my family's business.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** No one ever complains.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** It will cost me more to do business which directly take away from my family's livelihood.



**Name:** Bridget Casper

**Position:** Manager

**Restaurant:** Randolph Griddle

**Address:** 1333 Randolph Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105

**Ward:** 3

**Number of Employees:** 15  
employees

**How long have you worked here?** My father bought this restaurant four years ago.

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** In addition to helping my family, I love the regulars and the atmosphere. My dad is always around the restaurant. This restaurant is part of the community.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on “to go” packaging?** I’ve never heard a customer either complain or compliment our food packaging.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** This restaurant uses a lot of foam for to go orders because we serve large portions. Switching to different to go packaging would be a huge expense. We would have to raise prices.



**Name:** Joanne Gantzer

**Position:** Manager

**Restaurant:** Goody's  
Hot City Pizza

**Address:** 1017 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
W., St. Paul

**Ward:** 2

**Number of  
Employees:** 8

**How long have you  
worked here?** I've  
worked here for 18  
years.



**Why do you work at this restaurant?** I like my job and love the customers. We have great customers.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on “to go” packaging?** I've never heard customers say anything about the food packaging.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** This is going to be expensive. We will be forced to raise prices.

**Name:** Rich Gapinski

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Rooster's BBQ

**Address:** 979 Randolph Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55102

**Ward:** 2

**Number of Employees:** 12 employees.

**How long have you operated this business?** 30 years

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** My family has had a few restaurants and I wanted to get into the business. I started this place back in 1988. I have fun doing this work and have a great group of regular customers.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** I use some foam and also use cardboard. Customers do not comment on the packaging.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** I use foam cups and condiment containers so I will need to raise prices to completely eliminate foam.



**Name:** Barbara Hunn

**Position:** Founder

**Restaurant:** Keys Restaurant

**Address:** 767 Raymond Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55114

**Ward:** 4

**Number of Employees:** 14

**How long have you operated this business?** 44 years owned and operated. Hours worked – 5 million

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** Because it's mine and it's my life and I love it.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** Never.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** Financially.



**Name:** Bill Keenan

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Keenan's Bar

**Address:** 620 W 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
St. Paul

**Ward:** 2

**Number of Employees:** 5

**How long have you worked here?** I've worked here since my father bought the place in 1983.

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** I get to carry on my father's legacy by keeping the place running.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** No one comments on our packaging.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** I couldn't absorb the higher costs if prices went up. My only option is to raise prices.



**Name:** Tony Mahmood

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Aesop's Table

**Address:** 919 Dale Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55103

**Ward:** 1

**Number of Employees:** 7 full time and 30  
part time

**How long have you operated this  
business?** 31 years owned and operated

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** The  
restaurant business is a family business for  
me. My parents and grandparents all  
owned restaurants so I grew up in them. I  
wanted to open a business in St. Paul and  
over 30 years later it has become a St. Paul  
institution.



**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on “to go” packaging?** No one cares  
about packaging Yet, they will when their sandwich goes up \$2.00. even then they won't say  
anything they'll just stop coming in and go to another place like in roseville where they don't  
have the ban.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** This will double costs of  
packaging. New products will cost more and still go straight to the burning plant. This ban  
would raise menu items from \$1.50 to \$2.00 and those costs will be shouldered by my loyal  
customers. Foam is recyclable and should be recycled instead of being what kills by business.

**Name:** Conny McCullough

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Conny's Creamy Cone

**Address:** 1197 Dale Street  
North  
St. Paul, MN 55117

**Ward:** 5

**Number of Employees:** 18

**How long have you operated this business?** 22 years owned and operated



**Why do you work at this restaurant?** I worked at a restaurant while in college. I loved the business. When I saw this place for sale, I took a chance and became a small business owner!

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** No complaints at all. Foam is better than other materials at keeping ice cream cold!

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** This ban would cost more money and the added cost would be passed on to my customers. This would raise the price of a small malt to \$3. As a small business, we cannot afford added costs.



**Name:** Deb Narusiewitz

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Highland Café  
& Bakery

**Address:** 2012 Ford  
Parkway  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

**Ward:** 3

**Number of Employees:**  
25

**How long have you  
operated this business?**  
10 years



**Why do you work at this restaurant?**

It is a lot of work; we are doing it for the people and the community. The love of people and for what you are doing. I am not doing this to make a lot of money. Places like this need costs low.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on “to go” packaging?**

There are no concerns. They like using their foam packaging and taking things to go.

**How would this packaging ban impact you and your restaurant?**

This would increase costs on top of the recent labor costs. We are going to price our customers out of going out to eat. I try to keep my prices low because I serve a senior population that operates on a fixed income. I will have to pass this increase onto them if this goes through. This is driving smaller shops out of the market.

**Name:** Joe Roach

**Position:** Manager

**Restaurant:** Joe & Stan's Pub & Grill

**Address:** 949 West Seventh Street, Saint Paul

**Ward:** 2

**Number of Employees:** 16 employees, all full-time.

**How long have you worked here?** I've worked here for 17 years.

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** My friend bought the place and brought me on.



**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on “to go” packaging?** I've never heard any comments about our food packaging.

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** We will have to raise food costs to over overhead. We do our best not to raise prices, but we will have to do that if this ban is passed.

**Name:** Mike Runyon

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:**  
Shamrock's  
995 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
St. Paul

**Ward:** 2

Nook  
492 Hamline Ave. S.  
St. Paul

**Ward:** 3

**Number of Employees:**  
100 between Shamrock's and the Nook.



**How long have you worked here?** I've worked here for 17 years.

**Why do you work at this restaurant?** This is what I know. This business has allowed me support my three boys and my partner's four boys.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** We chose to use compostables. Some customers like it..

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** We are large enough that we were able to make the choice to use compostable and recyclable materials. There is no commercial composting, so we have had to privatize that at Shamrock's. Since we own the building at Shamrock's, we have had to educate tenants on composting. We aren't the property owner, just a tenant, at Nook, and there is a steep learning curve to get everyone to treat their garbage the same way. While this was a choice we made, I don't think this should be mandated on all restaurants. Restaurants and customers should have the choice to use the materials that work best for them.

**Name:** Moe Sharif

**Position:** Owner and President

**Restaurant:** Downtowner Woodfire Grill and Burger Moe's

**Address:** 257 7<sup>th</sup> St West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

242 7<sup>th</sup> St. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

**Ward:** 2

**Number of Employees:**

Downtowner – 60

Burger Moe's – 70

**How long have you operated this business?**

Downtowner – 29 years

Burger Moe's – 7 years

**Why do you work at this restaurant?**

This is how I make a living. I pay my taxes religiously because I treasure being a part of the St. Paul community. People need jobs and I enjoy people so running a business seemed like a natural fit. I could be doing anything else to earn a living but being a small business owner is what I chose.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging? Zero.**

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** This packaging ban will cause my cost of doing business to rise which will not only increase the costs for my customers but it will impact staff benefits, and for what - to purchase more expensive materials that will still go in landfills? It doesn't make any sense. Twenty-five years ago I met a man who was unable to work for the previous five years because of a criminal background. Today, he is still a loyal employee with a wife, kids, house, and not one more scratch on his record – what am I supposed to tell him and his family? If anyone works here, they are a part of my family and the same can be said for the majority of restaurants in St. Paul. This packaging ban feels like a punishment for being a tax paying small business owner and active community member.



**Name and Position:** Keith Scmitz, cook and Tessa Skiba, waitress

**Restaurant:** Mickey's Diner

**Address:** 36 7<sup>th</sup> St. W., St. Paul

**Ward:** 2

**Number of Employees:** 15

**How long has this restaurant been in St. Paul?** Mickey's opened in 1939.



**Why do you work at this restaurant?** I like the culture and the people. It's great to work at such an iconic place. - Tessa

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?** We don't hear any comments on our packaging. - Keith

**How would this packaging ban impact you or your restaurant?** We would definitely have to increase prices because of the switch. - Tessa

**Name:** Ron Whyte

**Position:** Owner

**Restaurant:** Big Daddy's BBQ

**Address:** 625 University Ave W  
St Paul, MN 55104

**Ward:** 1

**Number of Employees:**

5

**How long have you operated this business?**

10 years

**Why do you work at this restaurant?**

My business partner and I have operated restaurants for 30 years. It has become harder and harder over the years. I worked for Honey well for many years and operated restaurants like these in my spare time.

**Do customers complain or compliment the restaurant on "to go" packaging?**

I have received no complaints on our containers.

**How would this packaging ban impact you and your restaurant?**

I have no idea how this would impact us. I have not heard about the possible change to other containers. I would have to pass any additional costs onto our customers.

