

**Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair,
Senate Health and Human Services Committee**

**Representative Robert Bierman, Chair,
House Health Finance and Policy Committee**

I'm writing to you today to express my support for increasing the fee structure for the inspection of food, pools and lodging services for the Minnesota Department of health. As a restaurant owner for 25 years, it's never an easy thing to see costs of business going up, especially in this environment of high labor and high food costs, but in this regard, I think it only makes sense that the costs for this valuable service would also increase in this inflationary environment.

My experience with this branch of the health department has been very positive. I am usually one that is cynical of the machinations of government. I've run small businesses all my adult life and engaging with regulatory agencies are generally one of the least favorite necessities of running a business. But over the years, I have come to appreciate the collaborative interactions I've had with this agency, and have come to realize that it is a service that is important and necessary for the health and well-being of the community, as well as the businesses that sometimes in the chaos of large volumes and tight budgets can lose track of vital things and leave themselves exposed in a way that have the potential to irreparably damage their reputation and finances.

Recently, my business experienced a fire, and the timing of that fire could not have been worse and the need for me to reopen as soon as possible was of vital importance if my business was going to survive. I contacted food branch of the Mdh and they were very responsive in helping me find the quickest Best path to reopening in a way that was compliant and safe. The systems that they have developed for inspection of facilities and the education of business owners and managers in order to maintain Vital safeguards for the public health are both effective and efficient. I support an increase in the fee structure for this branch of the Mdh so that it can maintain It's vital role in the areas of commerce that it watches over. Sincerely -

: Bruce Block
Owner


Sydney's Frozen Custard.