

Submitted by TRACY WAX

**CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS  
COALITION**

*Alewife Business Association  
William Ahern, President*

*Cambridge Chamber of  
Commerce  
Jay Kiely, Chair  
Sarah Kennedy, Director of  
Government Affairs*

*Cambridge Local First  
Rachael Solem, Co-Chair  
Carrissa Blackburn, Executive  
Director*

*Central Square Business  
Association  
Patrick Rowe, President*

*East Cambridge Business  
Association  
Patrick Magee, President*

*Harvard Square Business  
Association  
John DiGiovanni, President  
Denise Jillson, Executive Director*

*Inman Square Business  
Association  
Debbie Musnikow, President*

*Kendall Square Association  
Sarah Gallop, President  
Alexandra Lee, Executive Director*

October 31, 2016

Cambridge City Council  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Cambridge City Councilors,

On behalf of the Cambridge Business Coalition we are writing in opposition to Policy Order #10 from October 17<sup>th</sup>, which is a Calendar Item on tonight's agenda regarding the regulation and/or ban of wood fired ovens in commercial establishments.

Cambridge has a diverse culinary scene that should be celebrated. Restaurateurs have made significant investments in chefs, techniques, and equipment that set them apart from competition within and outside of Cambridge. The bustling Kendall Square restaurant scene is thriving compared to a decade ago. Kendall's success is Cambridge's success. Cambridge as a restaurant destination was a desired outcome of the K2C2 City led public process.

There are numerous restaurants that utilize wood as a cooking medium, thanks to new technologies. Cambridge restaurants are consistently rated among international and local food writer's top picks. Allowing chefs to be creative with their cooking styles is an essential part of supporting Cambridge as a culinary destination. We are concerned that an outright ban of wood fired ovens would dramatically change the game for many established business owners, and would discourage investment and growth in new restaurants.

Please remember to keep small business owners in mind as you continue to discuss new ways to regulate small business. The polystyrene ban, the efforts to increase the minimum wage, stricter truck restrictions, lighting and signage, and banning wood burning ovens have significant impacts as we continue to serve the residents and visitors of Cambridge. Cambridge restaurants employ hundreds of people and want to continue offering jobs for young people entering the workforce. Layering on of regulations makes doing business in Cambridge more challenging.

We value your willingness to include the business community at the table in these discussions so that we might share ideas for creative solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cambridge Business Coalition