

ANDY HUSBANDS
1 Kendall square

My restaurant the smoke shop is built around a wood fired concept, BBQ.

I understand and have compassion for the issues that are occurring, and obviously there needs to be a resolution. I am not here to speak about the specifics of this issue.

I am concerned about the consideration of a banning of all wood cookery or mandatory installation of scrubbers in Cambridge when there has been zero complaints against the Smoke Shop and many other restaurants who use wood. To me it feels like throwing the baby out with the bath water.

We spent millions of dollars to open this restaurant, employ over 100 people, and work on very small margins. Banning of wood cookery would mean we would close our doors immediately and scrubbers would put us in financial ruins.

I worked at the East Coast Grill in the early 90s and it along with other wood burning restaurants is part of the reason Cambridge became a fine dining destination. The history and result of Cambridge's dining scene, as well as, the ability to be able to work well with the city is one of the major reasons I chose Kendall Square.

Wood cookery has been around since the dawn of time and American BBQ is America's true cuisine, it would be a shame to legislate against history and a problem that is not occurring around my business.