



**SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL**  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201-3335  
(509) 625-6255

May 22, 2017

Dear Business Owner,

Thank you for your recent letter and for choosing to operate your business here in the City of Spokane. We know you have a choice as to where to locate and transact business with your customers. The City Council is committed to supporting your business, improving the quality of life, and investing in Spokane's "Urban Advantage."

In addition to your letter, we received a similar letter from the Washington Hospitality Association and the American Beverage Association on the same topic.

Although Seattle's Mayor is proposing a beverage tax to the Seattle City Council, that is not the case in Spokane. The Spokane City Council is not pursuing or seeking to impose a beverage or sugar tax. No beverage or sugar tax referendum, initiative, or advisory question has been filed by the Spokane City Council for the November ballot.

In fact, what we are doing is building a stronger city and advocating for business expansion:

- We have designated funds to incentivize growth in targeted business centers across the City;
- We are working to remove financial barriers to businesses that provide live music and dancing;
- We are creating a new alliance between the Council and the Mayor to strategically invest public dollars to highlight and expand Spokane's unique "Urban Advantage" such as our trail system, our River and our arts & cultural activities; and
- We have successfully obtained millions of dollars from the state legislature for transportation infrastructure improvements for the North-South Corridor, the downtown Central City Line, other transit projects, bridge projects and expansion of the Centennial Trail.

We agree with you wholeheartedly that your stores and restaurants are part of the fabric of neighborhoods throughout Spokane. Please know you can contact any of us at any time with any future concerns. It is an honor to serve you and the citizens of Spokane. Again: the Spokane City Council is not engaged in an effort to implement or put to a vote a beverage or sugar tax.



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Sincerely yours,

Council President Ben Stuckart

Ben Stuckart

Council Member Breean Beggs

Breean Beggs

Council Member Mike Fagan

Mike Fagan

Council Member Lori Kinnear

Lori Kinnear

Council Member Candace Mumm

Candace Mumm

Council Member Karen Stratton

Karen Stratton

Council Member Amber Waldref

Amber Waldref