

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

03/19/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1295 Food Truck Operations

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Antonio Carnes For Meaty Boyz LLC	The new regulations for each municipal area have made it extremely difficult for us to grow our new food truck business. We had a food truck from 2017 to 2020. It was much easier to work in different municipal areas at that time. We did not realize that each municipal area would expect a new fire department inspection in order to be licensed in that municipal area when we started our new food truck fall of 2024. We have only been able to operate in one municipal area because we do not have the funds to pay for all of the required inspections and fees for each municipal area. This has severely limited where we can work how much money we can make and how many new customers we can get. We are already limited and how many days we can work because of the few breweries that we can work with in Centennial. If a brewery has multiple locations, in order to work with their Centennial brewery, we still have to be licensed with the other municipal areas that they have other breweries which has made it almost impossible for us.

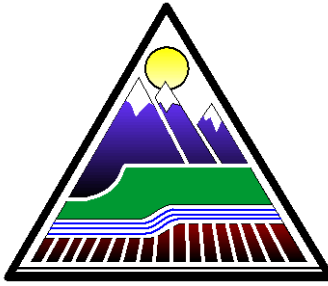
House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

03/25/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1295 Food Truck Operations

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Mateo Spain For themselves	<p>I own Mateo's food truck.</p> <p>I have been in business since 2010 in Colorado.</p> <p>I travel up and down the front range.</p> <p>I have been inspected by the city of fountain, Castle Rock, larkspur, South Metro, Pueblo, to name a few.</p> <p>There is a not named city that the fire Marshal plays God and decides how to interpret the rules that doesn't go along with every other fire department/ Marshal's approval in Colorado.</p> <p>Rumor has it that the fire chief or someone connected has a food truck and they are actively trying to keep out of city food trucks out of their city. I have been doing events there since 2013. The fire Marshal denied even to inspect me until I made a big deal about it with the city.</p> <p>He makes me jump through hoops and even suggested that I put \$15,000 of upgrades to my business. After talking to another food truck owner in that city they told me that he passed them and told them if it worked for them for 6 years he wasn't going to make them do the upgrades. I have been in business much longer without any issues.</p> <p>The fact I do travel the state this is the only fire Marshal to even question my legit setup.</p> <p>A small town fire Marshal with an attitude shouldn't be able to stop a complaint small business from being able to do business in that town.</p> <p>I urge you to pass this bill to make it one stop for fire inspections cut the red tape and the extra expense we go through conduct business.</p> <p>This is our of control and needs to be fixed. I believe this is a great solution.</p> <p>Sincerely Matt of Mateos</p>



DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 560 DODGE STREET • SUITE 227 • DELTA • COLORADO • 81416-1796

OFFICE: (970) 874-2113 MOBILE: (970) 200-4251

www.deltacounty.com

wkoontz@deltacountyco.gov

Wendell A. Koontz, Delta County Commissioner

March 25, 2025

RE: Statement Opposing HB25-1295:

Both the Delta County Public Health Director Jaqueline Davis and I oppose HB25-1295, which mandates a reciprocal licensing and permitting system for food trucks across Colorado's local government jurisdictions. While the bill aims to streamline food truck operations, it significantly undermines the autonomy of counties and local governments to regulate businesses within their own communities. The bill disregards the fact that counties, including ours, contract with the state to provide Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) standardized field services. We are already operating under state oversight to ensure food safety, making the bill's uniform regulations unnecessary and counterproductive.

Furthermore, HB25-1295 would prohibit counties from enacting stricter regulations than the state's baseline, preventing local governments from addressing community-specific needs. Local governments should retain the flexibility to address community-specific needs, particularly when it comes to public health, zoning integrity, and the well-being of residents. The bill strips counties of their ability to implement higher standards when deemed appropriate, effectively disregarding the unique challenges and needs of each community.

Counties possess a unique insight into their specific public health, safety, and economic conditions. By imposing a uniform licensing system, HB25-1295 disregards these local nuances and limits the ability of local authorities to enforce standards tailored to their constituents' needs. This top-down approach undermines the foundational principle of local self-governance, which ensures that policies are responsive and appropriate to the

distinct characteristics of each county.

Other aspects of the bill also limit local governments' ability to make zoning and public safety decisions that reflect the preferences and welfare of their residents. While I understand the intent to facilitate food truck operations, this should not come at the expense of eroding local control, which is essential for ensuring that communities can maintain policies that are suited to their specific needs and priorities.

For these reasons, I urge policymakers to reconsider this bill and preserve the authority of local governments to regulate food truck operations in a manner that best reflects the needs and values of their communities.

Jacqueline Davis, MHA, FACHE

Delta County Public Health Director

Wendell A. Koontz

Delta County Commissioner

March 23, 2025

**HB25-1295 Food Truck Operations
Testimony by Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute**

Chair Froelich, Vice-Chair Stewart, and members of the Committee,

My name is Theresa Rinne-Meyers with Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute (RMMFI) testifying in support of HB25-1295 Food Truck Operations. As a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs through education, mentorship, and access to capital, our network for 500+ Colorado microbusinesses play an important role in fostering economic opportunity, creating jobs, and enriching Colorado's diverse small business landscape.

Catering, restaurants, and food trucks are a top industry for our entrepreneurs. Food trucks specifically serve as an accessible entry point for entrepreneurs—many from underrepresented backgrounds—to start and grow their businesses. However, the current system of fragmented and inconsistent local regulations places significant burdens on these small business owners. Under the current framework, food truck operators must navigate a complex and costly web of business licenses, health permits, and fire safety permits in each jurisdiction where they wish to operate. These duplicative requirements hinder their ability to scale, increase operating costs, and ultimately limit their economic impact.

This bill takes a crucial step in removing these barriers by establishing a reciprocal licensing system for existing business, health, and fire safety permits across multiple jurisdictions, reducing redundant applications and fees. It also helps to ensure fair and equitable access to this type of business by prohibiting excessive restrictions on zoning, operational days, and distances from brick-and-mortar establishments will allow food trucks to operate freely and serve their communities without undue limitations.

This legislation aligns with RMMFI's mission to build inclusive economic opportunities and supports a thriving micro business ecosystem. By enabling food truck entrepreneurs to exist and grow without unnecessary regulatory hurdles, Colorado will cultivate more small businesses which in turn leads to job creation and consumer choice across our communities.

On behalf of RMMFI, we urge you to vote in favor of HB25-1295 to support food truck entrepreneurs and strengthen Colorado's local economies.

Sincerely,

Theresa Rinne-Meyers
Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute
theresa@rmmfi.org

PO Box 48138, Denver, CO 80204
1824 Lincoln St, Denver, CO 80203
720-941-5037 www.rmmfi.org info@rmmfi.org

Testimony in Support of HB25-1295: Food Truck Operations

Dear Members of the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee,

My name is Sarah Ladley, and I've operated my food truck, Ba-Nom-a-Nom, in Colorado for the past 14 years. For the last 11 years, I've also organized a major food truck event in Northern Colorado- The Foco Food Truck Rally. I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1295.

The current patchwork of local regulations on Mobile Food Vendors is not only confusing—it's incredibly time-consuming and cost-prohibitive. Every jurisdiction seems to have a different process, timeline, and fee structure regarding fire permitting, sales tax licensing, and business permitting. This makes it hard for small businesses like mine to participate in events across the state, even when we're fully licensed, insured, and compliant with safety standards. We also have seasonal businesses for the most part, and a short window of time to make revenue, so all of the extra paperwork and inspections can really eat into the time window to be able to be out at events making revenue.

Food truck owners want to follow the rules and to be compliant. But when the regulations vary so widely, it becomes difficult to know if we're actually doing everything correctly—or just hoping we are. By creating a streamlined, reciprocal permitting system, this bill will give vendors the clarity and confidence to operate legally and responsibly across Colorado.

I urge you to support HB25-1295 and help food truck operators like me continue contributing to Colorado's local economies and vibrant communities.

I am happy to discuss this matter further and give more details and examples of how complex licensing can become.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ladley
Ba-Nom-a-Nom LLC & FT Events LLC
sarah@banomanom.com