

North Central MASSACHUSETTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Testimony on Proposed Commercial Kitchen Ordinance

Leominster City Council

North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce

Monday, February 8, 2021

Good Evening Mr. City Council President, Council Vice President, and members of the Leominster City Council. For the record, my name is Travis Condon. We are a private, non-profit business association that serves nearly 700 businesses and organizations – of all sizes - many of which call Leominster home. Our mission is focused on advancing the region. We would like to express our support for the proposed ordinance change to Article 1 definitions for Commercial Kitchen and amendment to Article 3 Section 22-17 that would allow for the use and regulation of commercial kitchens in the city.

We believe that allowing commercial kitchens will be a positive for not only Leominster, but the North Central Massachusetts region. Commercial kitchens will help spur new small business ideas and give entrepreneurs a chance to launch a business that might not have the backing needed for a full establishment. This change will attract entrepreneurs that are already here in the City waiting for a chance to launch their idea, and spur interest for other entrepreneurs to bring their idea to Leominster. Commercial kitchens can also serve as a great testing ground for potential restaurants, and would also benefit the local food truck industry.

Despite these unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen several new businesses launch within the confines of Leominster in recent months. Having a commercial kitchen is one more tool that can help keep that momentum moving forward as we work to build a stronger small business community in Leominster and the North Central Massachusetts Region.