

February 22, 2021

Jon & Laura Hancock
Owners, JaxDog Cafe & Books L.L.C.
Union County, OR
Testimony in favor of HB 3177

To the committee,

We appreciate your time in reading our testimony. This last year has certainly been a challenge. My wife and I own a combination bookstore and cafe. We certainly have our work cut out for us, competing with larger corporations and also other restaurants. Competition is good. We've been in food service for over 25 years. We meet and exceed operational standards set by the State of Oregon. We can hold our own – with one exception: being hobbled in a horse race.

Is this not a free market economy, or are we truly on a path toward socialism? Should the means of production be granted to only a few large corporations? Government conspiring with our large competitors to dominate the market and throw advertising dollars at a docile population that is on the dole is the current goal, it would seem.

We, like many other American small businesses, have an immediate positive impact in our communities. Because we're small should we cease to exist, as Ro Khanna (D-CA) said "We don't want low wage businesses" because of the ever creeping hand of an anti-competitive cabal? Let me be clear. We have no problem with adhering to health and safety standards. We've been doing this for most of our lives. What we do have a problem with is the idea that free people, in a free country should be made to live in fear. To lose community and individuality so that a few can consolidate wealth while trying to stamp out the little guy is wrong. House Bill 3177 is an opportunity to return a level playing field for all entrepreneurs to compete on.

Sincerely,

Jon & Laura Hancock

