

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 47
March 3, 2015
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Jason Kershner, Vice President of Government Affairs

Chairman Brown, Vice Chair Blessing, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee – thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 47 today.

My name is Jason Kershner, I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, representing more than 4,000 businesses and over 350,000 employees.

The Cincinnati Chamber supports House Bill 47, to allow for the designation of outdoor refreshment areas and believes that this option can lead to exciting new economic opportunities for Cincinnati businesses and expanded entertainment options for residents and visitors.

The Chamber supports the local control given to the local government, allowing for each qualifying municipality to decide for itself, its residents, and its businesses whether an outdoor refreshment area is appropriate and how it will be overseen, taking into account safety and the collective will of the businesses in the district.

Many companies, organizations, and government representatives have been a part of interested party meetings regarding House Bill 47 and it has been refined to address former concerns and enhanced so that municipalities may realize the vibrancy in their communities that a tool like this allows for.

Additionally, there is an amendment to this bill that would allow for an F-8 liquor permit to be temporarily suspended for an F permit, just as it can currently be suspended for an F-2 permit for a special event. In our area, Cincinnati Parks holds an F-8 permit and allows the Chamber to suspend it with our F-2 permit, which is for beer and wine, for special event programming like Party in the Park at Yeatman's Cove. The amendment would allow that the suspension could also be made using an F permit, which is beer only.

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber encourages your support of this legislation. Thank you again for your time and I will take any questions you may have.

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