



*Jobs, Justice and a Brighter Future*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Konkel's Latest Tactics Snuff Out Civic Involvement**  
*Alder Brenda Konkel files "lobbying complaints" against bar owners  
and workers hurt by the smoking ban*

(MADISON) – The Common Sense Coalition (CSC) is calling on Progressive Dane Alderperson Brenda Konkel, District 2, to cease her attack on small business owners. Konkel has been filing baseless lobbying complaints against tavern and bar owners who have been contacting elected officials about the city's new smoking ban.

"Every time Brenda files an unfounded complaint against a small business or individual for petitioning his or her government, it chills the relationship between business and city government and validates the sentiment that the city council is anti-business," said Dan Guerra, owner of Argus Innovations and a CSC interim board member.

CSC stands firmly against Alder Konkel's efforts to single out individuals and label them as "lobbyists" for simply interacting with elected officials and opposing a smoking ban that many claim is having a negative impact on their businesses.

"Citizens have a right to contact their elected officials about issues that personally affect them without fear of legal reprisals," said Ray Allen, spokesman for the Common Sense Coalition. "Access to government is one of our most fundamental rights, which seems to be lost on Ms. Konkel."

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### **2-2-2-2 CSC Says Konkel Limiting Civic Involvement**

Alder Konkel has previously filed hundreds of lobbying complaints against businesses, organizations and individuals and not one recipient has been issued any fines or sanctions for violating the city's lobbying ordinance.

The Common Sense Coalition supports a suspension of the smoking ban until a citywide referendum on the issue in April of 2006, allowing Madison voters to be heard on this issue.

The Common Sense Coalition is a non-partisan, diverse, public policy group comprised of individuals, community leaders, business owners and 17 organized labor unions representing building and construction trades, police officers, firefighters, sheriff's deputies and stage hands. The group has organized around taking common sense approaches to governing, economic development and providing jobs, justice and a brighter future.