



OFFICE OF  
**MONROE COUNTY COUNCIL**

100 W. Kirkwood Avenue, Room 209  
Bloomington, IN 47404

Phone (812) 349-7312 • Fax (812) 349-2280

Eric Spoonmore, President  
Kate Wiltz, President Pro Tempore  
Trent Deckard  
Marty Hawk  
Peter Iversen  
Geoff McKim  
Cheryl Munson

March 19, 2020

Food and Beverage Tax Advisory Commission Members:

As one of seven members of the Monroe County Council, and in my service as the current President of the Council, I write to strongly encourage your swift action and support of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners' request to use Food and Beverage Tax Dollars ("F&B Tax") to aid local workers of county restaurants, bars, and establishments. A copy of the Commissioners' Resolution is attached.

The Commissioners' request was thoughtful and researched. County Legal staff contacted the Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR) prior to the Commissioners' approving the request, and the DOR indicated the County had a "good plan". There were no concerns expressed by the DOR. Home rule gives local counties room to maneuver and to govern as they deem necessary, provided no conflict exists with state law.

In addition, the Commissioners' request originated from their duty and desire to put taxpayer dollars to use for the greater good of our community. When the County Council authorized the local F&B Tax in 2017, the overarching intent was to promote tourism and economic development throughout Monroe County. If locally-owned businesses cannot survive during these turbulent times, our goals will not be met.

For these reasons, I urge your most expeditious action on the Commissioners' request. Upon receiving your recommendation for support, I will immediately call a special meeting of the County Council to appropriate these emergency resources, which will assist our Monroe County workers and businesses in need.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eric Spoonmore", written over a circular scribble.

Eric Spoonmore  
Monroe County Council  
President & District IV Rep