

August 28th, 2020

To Whom it May Concern

As a small business owner in Temple as well as real estate agents, and also residents of over 10 years, we are very excited to learn of Ben Fiske's plan to build a retail store featuring his Maple Syrup on the corner of Route 101 and Webster Highway. It is the perfect spot as there is no place to stop from the Brookside in Wilton to the Big Apple in Peterborough and Temple gets passed on by, most people driving through don't even know it exists.

We use his syrup here at The Birchwood Inn for brunch, in our Bacon Onion and Ben's Maple Syrup Mac and Cheese, and in a few of our specialty cocktails. Ben always takes care of us and often delivers the syrup to us personally. As we are only open for dinner, our overnight guests often ask us for recommendations for lunch, and we have to send them to neighboring towns. Based on what Ben told us, he would offer a deli type situation where people could get sandwiches, promoting a familiarity with Temple and what it has to offer.

The location maintains the rural character of our downtown area, while giving people a reason to stop and learn about Temple. As we all know, we have been struggling for years with a declining population, and our wonderful elementary school repeatedly comes up in conversation as being at risk of closure. Ben's is a story we often tell both at the Inn and when we are showing homes in Temple - a hometown boy born and raised in Temple who has literally put us on the map – what started as a childhood dream has blossomed into a nationwide business.

It can't have been easy for him, growing up here, spending his teenage and young adult years under scrutiny, but over the years we have known him we have seen him mature into a competent business man who deserves our respect and admiration, he is a success story for Temple.

We are 100% in support of keeping Temple the small town haven that it is, we love the peace and quiet, the lack of traffic, our beautiful and historic center of town, but we recognize the dire need to support our current population and also welcome newcomers to our fold. Ben's proposal at that location seems another steppingstone to helping us work towards a more viable future, while still preserving that which we all love most about Temple.

Sincerely,

Matthew and Amy Cabana