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**Common Sense Coalition Proposes “Buy Local” Policy for Madison  
*CSC calls for local government to support small business***

(MADISON) – Coming off the successful Common Sense Coalition *Small Business Forum*, which was attended by dozens of local small business owners, CSC used the opportunity to announce a policy initiative mandating that the City of Madison support its small business owners in the city’s purchase of goods and services.

“Madison’s city government is asking a lot from its small business owners, but what is it doing to support them in return?” asked Ray Allen, chair and spokesman for the Common Sense Coalition. “Implementing a “Buy Local” preference is an important step in changing the anti-small business climate our local government is creating,” continued Allen.

“Buy Local” policies are growing across the globe with such cities as Portland, Oregon, Tucson, Arizona, and Albany, Australia having implemented buy local preferences in procurement. CSC sees its “Buy Local” proposal as the next step in such grassroots efforts as the *Dane County Buy Local Initiative*. “It is time that Madison elevated this idea from a community initiative to a legislative initiative and start supporting our small business owners,” concluded Allen.

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