

Submitter: Danielle Myrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: SB643

Hello committee,

My name is Danielle Myrick and I am in support of SB 643 A, not only as a domestic kitchen baker myself, but as a consumer of home baked goods from my local community members. This bill would bring more opportunities to domestic kitchen bakers who can not move forward with the current cottage food processor rules. There are many talented bakers, cooks, and candy makers in the great state of Oregon who would love to continue their dream of producing goods while being able to have the flexibility of taking care of their family. But the current rules restricts much growth of sales, resulting in lower than poverty wages. We are stuck at a true side hustle level after accounting for all the fees associated with operating our businesses under the current rules and regulations.

For those that are worried about food safety for Cottage food processors, how is that person any different than the person preparing your food at a licensed establishment? You say it's because perhaps there are stricter rules, or food safety classes, or the fact their job is on the line. Well, let me tell you something: all of those reasons affect the cottage food processor too. A human is a human is a human whether they are cooking in a licensed food establishment or their home kitchen for business purposes. The risk is the same because we're all human. Who's to say the cook in the licensed establishment doesn't come in one day with the case of the eff-its and decides to be careless about food safety that day? You would never know unless they were caught. Or how about the fast food worker who wears the same gloves for all food production on the line they're working? But you don't see it because you're at the drive thru window. How do you know these food workers take food handling safety seriously? You don't. You're putting your trust in them that they're being safe with the food you're about to consume. This goes for bakeries, coffee shops, manufacturers, the distribution companies, etc. Same thing with cottage food processors. My argument there is that because this is OUR livelihood and business we're working so hard to grow, we take food safety more serious as to not jeopardize all our hard work and potentially lose our business/means of income.

I will leave you with this:

We are all putting trust in someone else preparing our foods. So why do cottage food processors need a more stringent set of rules compared to other states and other licensed food processors when we're already limited to non-potentially hazardous foods, sales caps, no online sales and shipping, and no ability to sell in other shops. I implore you all to be in support of SB 643 A and see how much small business positively affects community economies, families, and the great state of Oregon.

Thank you for your time.