

Submitter: Erin Maher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: SB643

SB 643: Relating to food establishments in residential dwellings.

#### SUPPORT TESTIMONY

Erin Maher, GM & Director, Land to Plate Distribution Cooperative

April 27, 2023

My name is Erin Maher, and I am an Oregon resident and the GM & Director of Land to Plate Distribution Cooperative (usually known as Agricultural Connections Cooperative), a food hub and local food distributor in Central Oregon. We often work with small-scale food businesses as a supplier, providing farm-fresh produce and organic dry goods for use in their products, and also work directly with members of the public who are excited about supporting local small businesses like the farms we primarily source from.

I am asking the committee to support SB 643, which will allow cottage food producers to make their businesses more sustainable for themselves, allow them to supply a growing audience of hungry consumers, and allow them to continue to support other small local businesses to keep our local economy growing.

The cottage food producers we supply are thoughtful, careful, and entrepreneurial individuals who just want to be able to scale their businesses while caring for their community. We see their work, and their ability to expand their businesses, as unified with ours: building resiliency in our local food system and supply chain and connecting consumers more closely with their food and their food producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 643. Please support this bill, and in doing so support small-scale business owners who just want to do right by their communities and customers while making a living for themselves and their families.

Erin Maher