

Submitter: Judy Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB643

My name is Judy Smith, and I live in Cottage Grove. I am also one of many bakers who opened their cottage bakery during the pandemic. It started because I just wanted to bring people some joy by leaving cookies anonymously on their doorstep. Since, it has become a thriving business with much potential that now I am struggling to grow because of the extremely low gross cap of \$20,000 which is one of the most strict in the nation. I just am not quite ready to take the leap of licensing yet, although it is my goal to do soon. If I could just have a little more time to build with the ability to cap at \$50,000, I believe that would be the lift I need to make my business successful. As it is, my expenses alone reached over \$20,000 this year, and this makes me feel like giving up, to be honest. I have had to get a job on top of my home bakery, and I work 17 hours a day. I cannot keep this pace up, and something will have to give soon.

Many businesses have reached out to me wanting my product on their shelves. In order to legally do this currently, I have to pack up all of my supplies and tools and transport the whole production to a local commercially licensed kitchen and work from there. Some of those inspected kitchens are nowhere as clean as my own. I take great care and pride in the cleanliness of my own kitchen, and to be forced to work from sub-par sanitary environments is very frightening as well as frustrating. If the restrictions on selling wholesale were lifted in Oregon, it would allow me to thrive in my own spotless kitchen.

As an active cottage baker in the state of Oregon, I greatly appreciate you taking the time to listen to our concerns, and it is my sincere hope that Oregon can gain some ground with updates in our cottage food laws.

Judy Smith

Random Acts of Cookies

Cottage Grove, Oregon