

**From:** Sally Bartlett [<mailto:gced@centurytel.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 19, 2014 11:27 AM  
**To:** Sharon Thornberry  
**Subject:** a little note

Sharon,

Please forgive me for not getting back to you. I was for no other word, "swamped," that week you requested support for the bakery bill. I would like to take the time now to answer you even though it might be, too, late to do you any good, I feel the need to tell Grant County's story.

This bill put into law could improve the economic stability for so many low-income and under employed people in Grant County. 3 years after the Great Recession, Grant County remains either the first highest or second highest in unemployment in the state of Oregon. Changes that can create a job for someone with no other skill set or without means to open a commercial bakery could make the difference for whole families, single mothers, and those living on fixed incomes.

Because there are still people baking and cooking in Grant County, hobbies or skills, that are long entrenched in the culture it is a way for people to make a little extra money by selling fresh baked foods and products.

These are good cooks and pastry bakers. They are clean, well organized, baking with real local, fresh ingredients, but they can't even sell their products at the annual Christmas bazaar or the Farmers Market because of the license issue. It takes so little here to make a difference. One job here relates to 100 jobs along the I5 corridor or Portland metro. One job here changes lives for the better.

Take for instance the case of the owners of Harrison farms. Because they can now sell their local produce via the farmers market and their farm stand, they have expanded their product line from fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables to selling pickled products and fruit jams and jellies. The one act of the so call Pickle Bill changed increased their income by twofold and created a job not only for their son but for both of them. This also helps ensure a next generation of farmers making their living from the land.

I can name at least five people that would open a small bakery business in their home immediately if this law was passed. Having a ceiling on the amount of revenue that can be generated is prudent to the safety of the customer. Any more than that, then there are more chances of stress to the process, but up to that point would allow people to see an actual increase in their livability. \$20,000 dollars here is over half the amount of the average pay per job in Grant County (\$33,497). It can change people's lives. It's like having a part time job. It's the difference between having to decide to pay the electric bill and buying groceries. It's summer swimming lessons and winter coats for kids. It's a living for the right person.

We have no full-service/stand alone bakery in Grant County. This would give people living in food deserts a choice for good, healthy quality baked goods, instead of commercially prepared baked products. There is something to be said for a slice of good bread, prepared by hand, baked in small batches. The quality of product is far superior to that of a commercially made food allowing for better nutrition and added health. Each little community could support one or two household bakers. None of the nine communities in Grant County have a bakery.

Of all the things I hear people say that they would like to have access to in Grant County that they to travel to get is good, high quality, bakery products. It's the one thing that visitors remark on, "you have no bakery."

This would be a good thing, Sharon.

I appreciate your support of such an endeavor and as always if there is anything else I can help you with please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sally Bartlett, Coordinator

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*"Most people miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work,"* Thomas Edison.