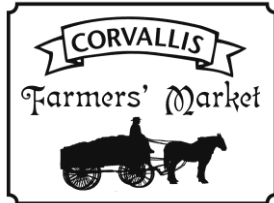


Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets  
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## We support SB 320, the small biz baking bill

I am writing to support a legislative proposal to deregulate home baking businesses grossing less than \$20,000 a year from non-potentially hazardous products.

I am a long-time farmers' market manager in Corvallis and Albany. Every year I speak with many home bakers who are interested in using those skills to help support their families.

When job losses exploded in 2008, I began to get multiple inquiries per week from would-be bakers who just lost a job or whose spouse just lost a job. Most of the callers were women, but each call represented a whole family in trouble. Although the calls have slowed down as the economy recovered, they have not stopped.

It is wrenching to hear these stories and worse yet to repeatedly deliver my Wet Blanket Speech. I have to tell these folks that starting even a small baking business in Oregon would mean lots of resources going out the door before any income could be generated.

I live and work in a relatively good economic climate compared to many rural areas of the state. This bill has potential to create rural economic development **one oven at a time** at very little cost to the state. It may even save money because of staffing and travel costs involved in licensing domestic bakeries in remote locations.

One benefit is nearly invisible if you live in Portland or the Willamette Valley: many rural parts of Oregon have no grocery store in reasonable proximity. Encouraging home bakers with SB 320 will improve food access and variety in these places.

The starting fee for a domestic bakery is \$152 a year, and it cannot be pro-rated even if a business is starting halfway through the fiscal year – say, to make Christmas cookies. Due to changes in the ODA web page, it is extremely difficult find a schedule of fees.

Oregon has ample successful experience with charitable sales of baked and confectionary products that are made in home kitchens not subject to regular inspection. Bakers are able to **help others** with existing law, but they cannot **help themselves**. When the mortgage or rent are due, charity must begin at home so that there will continue to be a home.

Customers of nonprofit bake sales are quite comfortable with the required disclosures. And frankly, the ODA must be fairly comfortable with domestic licensees because they usually prioritize inspections elsewhere after the initial home inspection. But the fees continue unabated.

I hope and expect that it will result in more products that include locally grown fruits and vegetables. Our farmers' markets prioritize grown products above all else, so I don't expect a huge effect here. There are other legitimate ways these products can be marketed, and I will direct bakers to those channels if we cannot serve them at our markets.

***Rebecca Landis***  
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***Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets***