

*The South Coast Development Council's mission is to promote and support
businesses that provide quality jobs through responsible
development on Oregon's South Coast.*



Oregon House Rural Communities,
Land Use, and Water Committee

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April 13, 2015

Dear Representatives Clem, Gilliam, Gomberg, Helm, Post, Witt and House Leader McLane:

I am writing on behalf of South Coast Development Council a nonprofit organization serving Coos, Curry, and Western Douglas Counties and we are in support of SB 320, the Small Home Business Baking Bill.

Supporting this bill will strengthen the local food system in our community and increase local economic opportunities. We believe that communities are stronger – socially, culturally, and economically – when they can produce locally more of the basic needs of their residents. Rural communities struggle economically and many rural residents would benefit from the ability to start home-based food businesses without costly and time consuming licensing requirements.

This bill addresses an important policy goal of encouraging new food based businesses while still strongly protecting public safety. This bill only allows home-based food production for low-risk baked goods and confections, and only allows such production and sale on a very small scale. Products sold under this legislation are clearly labeled as having been produced in an unlicensed and uninspected facility and consumers will know where their food is coming from.

This is good policy and we are happy to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Connie L Stopher
Executive Director
South Coast Development Council, Inc.



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