



April 6, 2015

Joel Caris
Development Director
Food Roots
PO Box 1275
Tillamook, OR 97141

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Food Roots, a nonprofit organization in Tillamook County, to express our support for SB 320, the Small Home Business Baking Bill.

Food Roots is a community food system organization working in Tillamook and Clatsop Counties whose mission is to cultivate a healthy food system for the north coast of Oregon. As an organization who serves and supports food entrepreneurs in building their businesses through projects such as a farmers market stand incubator, Individual Development Accounts, and others, this bill would greatly impact our efforts in Tillamook County to build a healthy food system and to help incubate small food system business start ups—specifically bakers and bakeries.

In addition, Food Roots works to support and start farmers markets, and we facilitate the Tillamook County Farmers Market Network. At this time, our region's farmers market managers report that there is a definitive request for baked good (based on annual customer survey reports) but that they lack bakers who are applying as vendors.

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 locally produce 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, and thus be better able to fulfill local demand.

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're happy to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Caris", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joel Caris
Food Roots Development Director