



**FOOD**  
**For Lane County**

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FOOD for Lane County is an equal opportunity provider and a member of

**SB 320 Home Business Bill Testimony**

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Beverlee Potter, Executive Director

FOOD for Lane County

Thank you for this opportunity to endorse the Home Business Bill (SB 320) that supports home baking businesses grossing less than \$20,000 to operate in food insecure communities. As the director of a regional food bank, we are consistently faced with finding innovative ways to alleviate hunger by creating greater access to food. Although the need across our county continues to be quite high (approximately 40% of our county's residents qualify for an emergency food box), we are constantly reminded of the resourcefulness of our neighbors in need and that continues to inspire us.

We believe that the Home Business Bill is both innovative and resonates with our core values of resourcefulness and self-sufficiency. If passed, it can help fill food desert gaps in communities that lack sufficient access to wholesome breads and at the same time act as an economic development opportunity, giving low-income Oregonians the ability to produce low-volume baked breads with minimal food safety risks, and sell them directly to their friends and neighbors.

We believe that SB 320 Home Business Bill will assist those we serve in the following ways:

- Increase food access in remote rural areas
- Foster food business incubation with less burdensome start-up costs
- Stimulate economic development
- Pose minimal food safety risks

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to convey our support for SB 320 today. We are excited by opportunities such as this that encourage the creation and expansion of avenues that foster greater access to food for those that we serve.

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