

Submitter: Dawn Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB643

My name is Dawn Nelson and I live in the suburbs of Portland. When I retired from teaching elementary school several years ago, I decided to try my hand at selling my decorated cookies. After researching a bit, I realized that I was unable to do so unless I became licensed with the state. At the time I had two elderly cats so this wasn't an option. When SB320 was introduced a few years ago I was thrilled to be able to work under this umbrella. It worked fine as a beginner baker with sporadic customers and reasonably priced ingredients. However, as my ingredients have doubled and tripled in some cases, I have had to raise my prices. My requests for custom made cookies to celebrate special occasions has increased as well. Under the current 20,000 cap, it would be impossible for me to expand if I chose to because by the time I subtract my ingredients, my supplies, my taxes etc, I am not even making minimum wage. I am turning away potential customers.

During the pandemic I was able to provide hand sewn masks to a small family owned store in my neighborhood. The revenue from the masks allowed this store to stay in business. They wanted to thank me by offering my cookies in their store, but under SB320, I am unable to do so.

The Cottage Food bill is perfect for someone like me who is retired and enjoys running a small business to keep busy, but it is too restrictive. I sincerely hope that Oregon can update the cottage food law and be more in alignment with the rest of the country.

Dawn Nelson