

Submitter: Barbara Chadek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: SB643

April 24, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business

RE: SB 643: Relating to food establishments in residential dwellings

IN SUPPORT TESTIMONY

Dear Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business:

I am writing to you in support of SB 643.

SB 643 reforms Oregon's cottage food law by adopting the best practices of other states. SB 643

clarifies and improves the cottage food law by:

1. Increasing the annual sales cap to \$50,000;
2. Expressly allowing online sales, mail delivery, and sales to retail stores and coffee shops;
3. Protecting the safety of cottage food producers by providing the option to use a unique ID number in place of a home address on product labels; and
4. Removing the blanket ban on owning pets for all homemade food producers.

I started my "hobby" cottage bakery about six years ago creating cake and cookie art for friends and family and it has grown to where I am constantly having to turn people away for lack of time since I work a full-time job as well. However, my cake and cookie art is my passion. It allows me to be creative and I love sharing that with others; as they say "Do what you love, love what you do!"

As I near "almost" retirement age, I would love to be able to work my cottage kitchen business as a full-time home baker and edible artist; that is my dream. However, with the current income cap of \$20,000 which is well below poverty level, my family would be financially devastated. If you calculate \$20,000 a year, divide by 12 months, then divide by average 2023 full-time working hours of 173.34 that would come out to \$9.62 per hour--Oregon's minimum wage is \$13.50 per hour.

Allowing cottage food business to sell online, mail delivery and sales to retail stores

and coffee shops would help build my custom cookies business and is already allowed in the majority of states.

I have never felt comfortable or safe giving my address to complete strangers and prefer to deliver my product. I live in a rural area and feel vulnerable that I have to publicize my address on my product. A unique identification number that is registered with the State is a safe and reliable alternative and is increasingly common in other states.

I am in agreement that as long as pets are kept out of the cooking area that they should be allowed in the home of cottage kitchens--48 other states currently allow this.

I urge you to please vote in support of SB 643.

Thank you very much for your time.
Barbara Chadek