



OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

Representing the collective interests
of Oregon's 33 local public health
authorities to improve the health of
all Oregonians.

oregonclho.org

April 25, 2023

Re: SB 643 A

Position: Oppose unless amended

Chair Bynum and members of the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee. My name is Sarah Lochner, I use she/her pronouns, here today on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, CLHO for short. We are the statewide association of Local Public Health Directors.

As the Chair undoubtedly knows, one of the many things local public health does is inspect restaurants for cleanliness and compliance with code. The purpose is to protect the public from food borne illness by enforcing proper food handling practices and procedures. Following these, the restaurant keeps its license to operate.

The current definition of "restaurant" includes coffee shops. Our major point of contention with this measure is that it says coffee shops can serve the products produced in home kitchens, but not restaurants. This will create much confusion about which establishments are or are not a coffee shop. Any entity that serves coffee could potentially claim to be a coffee shop. For the folks inspecting these establishments, there is very little difference between the two – typically both serve coffee and both serve food. Therefore, as licensed facilities, both should be protected by the same food safety standards, and this bill, as currently written, would cause major havoc.

In addition, perhaps in a small town, allowing coffee shops to sell these goods would not be too big of a deal. But in the Portland metro region, where there is a coffee shop on every other block, this could again cause major havoc. If there were to be a food borne illness, it could be very difficult to figure out where the offending product was coming from.

As such, CLHO is opposed to this measure as written. I would be happy to work with whomever to amend the bill – largely to take out the coffee shop piece, but we also have a few other changes we'd like to see as well.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I'm happy to be a resource moving forward.

Sarah Lochner
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