

My name is Dawn Nelson and I live in the Bethany area of Portland. I am fully in support of SB 643 so I may continue to expand my home-based business called Auntie Dawn's Custom Cookies.

Let me tell you a little about me. I am a retired public-school teacher who began a decorated cookie business to supplement my retirement. When schools shut down during the pandemic I sold "decorate your own cookie" kits as an activity for families to do together. I find joy in being a part of life celebrations. This week my orders included cookies to celebrate a 5-year anniversary of a double lung transplant; cookies for a Make a Wish event; and cookies for a 100th birthday.

The problem is that Oregon law makes it very hard for my business to thrive. The law caps my gross sales at \$20,000—one of the lowest caps on homemade food sales in the nation. After subtracting for expenses, that leaves me making less than the minimum wage. The law also bans online sales and shipping through the mail, even though most states allow such sales. While cottage food producers are allowed a bit more leeway if they get a permit from the Department of Agriculture, these permits are extremely difficult to get and absolutely prohibited to people who have pets. I don't have a dog fulltime in my house, but I occasionally have my daughter's dog overnight.

If this bill moves forward, I will be able to expand my business because of the increased sales cap. I have also been approached by neighborhood coffee shops and boutiques to sell my cookies but under the current bill I must turn them down. I am often asked to ship cookie care boxes to college students and under the current bill, I am unable to do that.

I follow food and safety guidelines in my kitchen, I package and label my cookies correctly. I hope you will consider voting this bill through. My livelihood and that of many others depends on it.

Sincerely,

Dawn Nelson

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