

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For Hearing Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 10:00 AM
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Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

COMMENTS FOR SB 829 by Kolkhorst | et al.

Kevin Miller
Self/retired
Sachse, TX

My daughter runs a cake decorating business out of her home. She can't afford to open a store front. Her business is hampered by the current cottage law limit of \$50,000. Please pass SB 829 so she can expand her business and help support her family.

Juan Chapa
Self
Brownsville, TX

Dear Representatives, as a supporter of Cottage Food Producers please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I have friends who are Cottage Food Producers that want to grow into a proper small business, and SB 829 gives them that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits their reach to what they can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help them go higher, further, faster.

In today's economic environment, the only way some businesses can afford to hire help and sign a commercial kitchen lease is by working together with other local entrepreneurs instead of alone, which is why SB 829 is critical for every micro entrepreneur who is serious about contributing to our economy in a more impactful manner. With your support, should SB 829 become law, it would be a game-changer for my friends and every hard working Texan that's cooking and baking from home to build a better tomorrow rather than waiting for hand me downs by the government.

Please help us support SB 829 so we can grow our Texas small businesses and create new jobs by allowing them to work together instead of alone. Thank you for everything you do for our great State, God bless you and God bless Texas.

Traci Rickert
GRTR Farm Fares
Seguin, TX

This is such an important bill - access to locally sources foods is at an all time critical need and the Cottage Food Laws have not changed with the times in that they don't allow small local business to be able to sell to small mom and pop grocers, coops, restaurants. A viable community is only as strong as it's residents and the self sufficiency they can achieve but the current Cottage Food Laws constrains these local producers from achieving that. Please consider passing this bill so food can be sources more locally; thereby helping them and their community thrive. Sincerely, Traci Rickert

Jennifer Hofmann
Self-Cottage Food Business
Galveston, TX

Please pass this bill. It is so important for cottage food businesses to be able to be self sustaining. The increase in the sales amount will allow us to be self sufficient. As a single income home, this is especially important as costs continue to increase.

The ability to wholesale will allow us to partner with other small businesses and support our local communities.

The removal of our home address will provide safety to us. When we sell at markets, we do not necessarily know who we are selling to, and by having our address could possibly be a safety risk.

The addition of refrigerated items will also allow us to increase our sales and profitability.

I appreciate you reading my comments.

Diane Cobos
Self/ handcrafted gourmet fudge maker
Odessa, TX

Passing this bill will help me support myself. I'm 64 years old and I would like to be independent. I prefer to work from home and have my own business. My husband died in September of 2022.

Andrea Tellez
Self, Substitute Teacher
Morgan, TX

Please allow our small local businesses to continue to make their home made goods. They allow for fresher products with less preservatives and allow people to pursue their hobbies.

Kimberly Overholt
Love + Sugar, LLC, Home Baker
Van Alstyne, TX

I am a home based bakery owner. For the safety of myself and other cottage food producers - this bill provides an option to remove the requirement to put my home address on every item I sell. It also raises the annual sales cap from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The new dollar amount will allow me to earn more money to properly support my family. The bill will also allow me more selling opportunities by allowing the sale of baked goods by a wholesale operation. Please support your small home based businesses by passing this bill which modifies Cottage Food Operations in Texas.

Janice Solomon
Granny Flos Sweet Treats & Eats
Beaumont, TX

Please consider voting in favor For Cottage Food Production Operations ? Thanks so much!

Abigail Gonzalez
Self
Harlingen, TX

In favor of these changes as it supports so many small businesses in our local area.

Amanda Rye
Self
Groves, TX

This bill will help my business and my family in so many ways. From increasing sales with sales to a cottage food vendor to protecting my family by dropping our home address from the labels, we NEED this bill to pass.

Debra Davenport
D66 Farm and Ranch
Mason, TX

Please pass SB 829 when voting. This bill is something that can def help people I know, including myself, that have side income for their homes. I live in a very small town (2100 pop) and many cannot afford care for their children that would allow them to go to work. If more were able to bake and sell their goods from home they could bring in an income, teach their children about hard work, determination and business aspects. While profiting from their business they could, as well, be afforded the privilege of removing their household from public assistance which, in some cases, is a generational issue. Please, I pray of you, when it comes to voting, please, vote to pass SB 829.

Amanda Short
Self
Mason, TX

This will open up so many more opportunities for us that bake under cottage law which would give us the chance to make more money to help support our families

Quincy Minor
Self
Austin, TX

It was hard to get started in the cheesecake business due to the law of having to work out of a commercial kitchen. Having to pay that overhead while you are trying to find customers is debilitating. A high number of orders are placed during the holidays making it a seasonal business. My business is closed, but maybe there is hope for the future. This bill needs to be passed to help all new business owners and those that have a seasonal product.

Amanda Holifield, Owner
Mother's Love Bake Shoppe
Sweeny, TX

Please pass this through!

Christine Felton
Self
Austin, TX

Please support SB 829, which will promote more spending in the Texas and local economies and support local farmers, who can generate more revenue by supplementing fresh produce sales with prepared products that they can sell year-round and at a higher profit margin. The passage of this bill would allow more Texas farmers to run viable and profitable businesses, ultimately supporting small businesses and Texas' local food economy.

Ashley Padilla
Self
El Paso, TX

I encourage a vote for this bill as it would allow entrepreneurs to pursue their business by providing more accessibility.

Leslie Terry, Financial Aid Rep
Self
Angleton, TX

It's time to ease the burden on small businesses. Allow them more liberties to make a living for their families.

Kelsey Lindsey
Home baker
Cleburne, TX

As a home baker we NEED this bill to pass. It would help us all tremendously!

Matthew Underwood, Mr.
Self - IT Support
Denton, TX

I would like to have more access to local, homemade foods from cottage food producers at co-ops and local grocers. Cottage foods are good for local farmers, entrepreneurs, and citizens because they generate revenue with prepared products that can be sold year-round. Cottage foods also enable thousands of small businesses to be launched in local communities in Texas.

Laurie Wright
Self - Home Baker
La Vernia, TX

I am a home baker operating under Texas cottage food law's. I am also a registered nurse.

In 2020, as the world was falling apart, my husband was deployed to Afghanistan. I begin baking as a way to pass the time and to learn to decorate cookies. I begin to make cookies for friends, coworkers, family events, and then strangers begin to reach out to me. I followed all the rules to become a cottage baker, but in my full-time life I was scared to death to go to work.

My husband returned the summer of 2021, and as we transitioned into him being home we planned a vacation. The week before we were to leave, I was mandatorily floated to the Covid unit. They were rotating the responsibility to all staff from what were deemed nonessential departments. Five days later I got Covid. Two months later, I began to search for ways to get out of the medical field and then we decided to move from the city to a small town.

It's difficult to start over. To be in a place where you have no family except each other and it's an 8 hour drive to see anyone else. I went back to work as a nurse but continued baking at home as a means to cope. I really had no life outside the walls of my home, other than going to work.

So many small businesses were closed because of the pandemic and people were trying to find ways to work from home. And the businesses that were thriving couldn't get workers. In so many ways, people were still afraid. Afraid to congregate, afraid to leave their homes. Homeschooling children is on the rise.

Then in the last year, there's finally been a move to more normalcy. They stopped requiring masks in large hospitals, and in public events, and the vendor markets, fiestas, festivals, and community events begin to start up and grow in popularity.

The home-based workers, bakers, crafters, creators, home based healthcare workers, computer programmers, graphic designers, the entrepreneurs tried to start networking publicly, and grow their business from home.

Businesses that pay taxes and move on to open brick and mortar buildings. This is the American dream. Find something you love to do, perfect it, grow your following, and go public. And the cottage bakers, cookie makers, cake decorators, are trying to make a full-time small business out of a side hustle.

The rules and regulations vary from state to state. In some states you can take your baked wares to a coffeehouse, restaurant, or boutique and sell them to the owner to sell to the public. Wholesale purchasing. Some states are allowed to ship their cookies, even if they must only ship within the state.

Texas is a big state. Texas should lead the way in changing the laws. Texas should show its support to the home baker by moving into the future and not stay stuck in the past. The world is ever-changing and we should be leading the way not following. Allow this bill to pass and Texas bakers to sell wholesale. Allow the sell of pies and cheesecakes. Allow shipping. Thank you.

Libby Lynch
Self
Dallas, TX

My good friend has a cottage baking business and has worked so hard to build a wonderful business w many happy customers! We should support & encourage these entrepreneurs who are creative & hardworking! Pls support this bill to help her continue to succeed!! Thank you!

Cynthia Hubler
Self - Texas Cottage Baker
Richardson, TX

I have been a home baker for 12 years. I always exercise the practice of clear labeling of every baked/edible product I produce for the safety and knowledge of my clients. The restrictions on the products I may offer my clients has placed limits on my ability to fulfill client requests and in turn, my ability to produce sufficient income to supplement my monthly need for home/shelter, utilities, insurance and groceries. Small business owners are not in line to effectively compete with or financially harm retail bakeries but we fill a niche that desires highly customized goods on a local level. When we eat, other businesses thrive as well. I encourage you to support Texas' cottage food businesses--in supporting us, you enable us to be productive citizens in turn.

Elinor Holder
self/Real Estate agent
Dallas, TX

I have a friend who is a cottage food baker who works very hard and this bill would really help her business.

Alizbeth Lule
Self
Princeton, TX

I support the bill and it would be beneficial for homebakers throughout Texas.

Holly Snow
Cottage bakers
Converse, TX

Please allow this bill to be heard and passed. This will allow more of the small cottage bakers to be more competitive with the large retail chains. Since many of us use the extra funds received to help 'get by' with monthly expenses due to the continued increase in the cost of EVERYTHING, removing some of the restrictions put in place by the original bill, will also allow more of the bakers to expand into other options that were unavailable before.

Julia Powers, Mrs.
Cottage Baker
Longview, TX

We support this bill. It would help cottage bakers like our friend tremendously!

Matthew Fairbanks
self
Austin, TX

These edits and additions included in this bill seem like good improvements on the current requirements. One item that does not seem to be addressed is the inclusion of a delivery service that may transport food from the point of sale to the consumer's location. That would be a nice inclusion as this may be different than "cottage food vendor"

Alexis Glaze
Self- Pastor
Angleton, TX

Please allow for the removal of a personal address on products (safety violation), the removal of restrictions on refrigerated ingredients, and the removal of the income cap.

Regina Tidwell
Self
Jones Creek, TX

In favor of Sb 829

Elizabeth Fellows
Home Bakeries
Graham, TX

Home Bakeries

Myrna Barber
Self, Cottage food owner/operator at Butter Sugar Bake, LLC
RICHMOND, TX

Thank you for reading my comments!

To be able to sell my delicious pies and cakes that require refrigeration. As home bakers we already take a Food Safety class; and we are well aware that food safety is vital for our customers as well as the success of our business - which is an important part of our family income and livelihood.

Removing our home address from our packaging labels will be a great safety precaution for all Cottage food bakers across Texas. Clarifying that cities and health departments may not require permits of cottage food producers will remove the struggle of attempting to show what Texas law already says is ok.

David Houston
Rebecca Houston #Cake
Dallas, TX

My mother owns and operates a cake business (#Cake) by herself out of her residence, this bill would allow her to grow her business and be able to service her growing customer base. Her hometown community has supported her immensely but would like to be able to provide her product many more Texans, and they would not be disappointed!

Dana Smith
Bake Me Away
Hurst, TX

I would love for her to make cheesecakes for me when I need them. Didn't know this even existed.

Victoria Carrasco
Self
Fort Stockton, TX

It would help me expand my growing business!

E Benavidez
Self Business Owner
San Antonio, TX

This is a great way to boost business in the state. Please support.

Stephanie Alvarenga
Self, home baker
Comanche, TX

As a disabled veteran and single mother, I rely on working from home to support my family. Expanding the current cottage laws will help me do that! Please support this bill!

Gabriella Reeves
Self
Floresville, TX

This would allow me, a victim of MST, to conduct my cottage business in confidence without fear of my address being available to the general public. It gives me confidence that I could control the level of privacy as I continue my business.

Chelsea Gannon
Self, home baker
Royse City, TX

This will help me and my business tremendously

Michell Daigle
Self
Troup, TX

This bill would mean so much for my small cottage food business, especially being able to sell refrigerated items. Since I'm limited to shelf stable foods I'm limited to what I can offer clients and I'd love to be able to expand on what I can offer. I would love for my business to grow and I think if passed it would give me better opportunities to grow. Thank you.

Laurel Goodroe
Self
Tomball, TX

This bill would make a tremendous impact on my life and the lives of many of my friends. It would allow for expanded services, the ability to increase our income, and also allow us to protect ourselves.

Corinne Hidalgo
Self
El Paso, TX

Bill should be passed

Courtney Willard

Self

Big Spring, TX

As a small town cottage law home baker this bill would bring countless opportunities to those like me, who use this business as an income or side income. Safety by allowing the No address to be passed. Opportunity by allowing wholesale. Products that are constantly asked about can be sold (cheesecakes, pumpkin pies, etc), these are top products asked for that are always said no, I can't do that. By passing this bill you help stay at home parents, those with disabilities but the want and passion to work, and even homeschooled children/teens the opportunity to make a better income by giving more leniency as well as safety. Thank you for the time to look at the smaller businesses and helping expand their horizons!

Ashley Winters

Self

Irving, TX

These changes would allow me to takes steps to take my business to the next level

Jack Goodroe

Self

Tomball, TX

This bill will make a big difference for my wife and other home bakers like her. The ability to earn more income, expand the places she can sell and also keep her safe by keeping our address private.

Michelle Zenici

Self as a Cottage Baker

Coppell, TX

I am hoping this Bill gets the support it needs to pass. As a Cottage Baker I support these changes for security and financial stability. Having a home address public opens Bakers to safety issues for their families when Customers don't accept boundaries. The changes to allow for select refrigerated items and wholesale will help bring stability and the opportunity for much needed income increases. Thank you.

Valeri Shaw

Self- cottage baker

San Antonio, TX

As a cottage baker, mother, and wife, the support of this bill has the potential to change my families future drastically. Owning my own cottage bakery has allowed me to care for my own physical health and dedicate time to my family that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to financially. With the addition of whole-sale and more product options, I will be able to continue to grow my business alongside many others.

After the pandemic, it has been a beautiful thing to see so many members of the community support each other and thrive as entrepreneurs. The passing of this bill allows cottage bakers to continue to grow and build businesses that allow for success.

Chelsea Andrews
Cake n Crumb Bakery
Waco, TX

My mother and I are the owners of a cottage food bakery called Cake n Crumb. We specialize in custom sugar cookies and cakes. We would love for you to vote in support of SB829 as it would greatly improve our business and give us the opportunity to sell more varied products, make more money to support our family, and not be required to put our private address on labels which makes us feel vulnerable. We love this great state of Texas and the freedoms we enjoy here - we know this bill would greatly improve the business of many home baking entrepreneurs and in turn, our state's economy!

Joseph Kinsler
Uncle Joe's Cookies LLC
Celina, TX

SB829 is a long overdue revision of TX Cottage food law.

Support for it is supporting TX small businesses and encourages them to grow.

I'm personally excited and look forward to the possibly expanding my business and earning money to help support my family.

Ann Gregory, Owner of Sweet Nibbles Bakery
Self
Flower Mound, TX

This law will allow me to grow my business and help provide income to my family. This will also allow me to provide baked goods to more people with food allergies, that struggle to find baked goods in the general public. Wholesaling will get more baked goods to more places.

Sarah Lowitzer
Self
Willis, TX

Now is the time to pass this amazing bill! Cottage business is crucial to our communities. It is time for a facelift and this bill covers it all.

Jill Fikkert
Self
Mckinney, TX

This would be a great bill to pass for so many Texans. As a stay at home mom—this is close to me as this makes it possible for me to bring in income for my family of 5 when being in a single income home. With prices rising in many products this bill will provided an Avenue to open many many more opportunities for us. Please pass this bill!

Meredith Schmuck
Self / Texas Cottage Baker
Friendswood, TX

As a solo cottage food baker, this bill would allow me to better support my family and get my products into more hands. It would also protect my home address, which in this day and age, is very important. Please, please support and pass this bill. You would be helping countless Texas cottage bakers.

Crystal Guinn
Self
Terrell, TX

Please support SB 829!!

Pamela Walters
Self - cottage baker
Magnolia, TX

The proposed changes will be beneficial to thousands of cottage bakers. As a cookier, I am thankful for the ability to share my craft and the joy it brings to celebrations! While we may be small business owners, so much heart and skill and time goes into creating products for our clients. Thank you for supporting us!

Natalia Ortiz
Self - unemployed
Georgetown, TX

This bill will represent the opportunity of an income for my family. I'm a stay at home mom and this will allow me to sell products that are currently prohibited under the cottage food law. Something that has stopped me from selling goods under this law is the fact that it requires to write your physical address in the product label. In the world we live this is something that concerns me for safety reasons. The bill allows producers to register with the HD and obtain a unique number to write in the labels as an ID. This is a more reasonable way of identification that doesn't put our safety at risk. Please consider this bill and support it. It will be a great source of income for many families who are struggling to make ends meet. Thank you.

Diana Brundrett
Self Retired teacher
Cedar Hill, TX

My daughter has a small baking business from home. She and her husband have served honorably for our country in the US Air Force, and she's trying to help support their growing family by bringing yummy healthy food alternative to her local community. Please pass this bill to support her American dream, and many other bakers just like her.

Lauren Hull, Owner and Founder of Festive Fudge
Self
Irving, TX

I would love to be able to provide meaningful employment so that I am not spreading myself thin trying to make a living and wearing all the hats. The proposed changes to cottage laws with higher income cap and less regulation would make that possible.

Melissa Taylor
Self/Home Baker
Robstown, TX

The passing of this bill would impact my family tremendously! In order to not surpass the current income cap the past two years, I have had to closely watch my numbers and even slow down my sales in December--which is my busiest month for my decorated sugar cookie business!

To be given the opportunity to possibly double my income with the raised income cap would make a huge impact on my family financially. I will be forever grateful for the TX Cottage Shop Law. I was able to start this business 9 years ago so I could still be home with my special needs daughter. My business is still going strong, and I would love to keep growing my business out of my home.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Stay sweet!

Lisa Norman
Lanelanes Creations
Sanger, TX

I would like to see easier laws for cottage bakers. My daughter is one and it would open so much more for her if the law passes. Thank you Some people do not go by the laws now they need to be held accountable for something. She has done everything that cottage bakery goes by

Richard Horan
Private citizen
China Spring, TX

Please support SB829. This law would greatly improve the businesses of many Texans who make and sell their baked goods from home across the state!, including my wife and daughter. Texas should support the rights of its citizens to grow small businesses.

Jody Addy
Self-cottage food producer
Abilene, TX

I am so thankful for this bill and the opportunities it would present in the future for my small business. My business is now two years old and thriving! When I retire from my full time job at some point, it will be an important source of income, and this bill will be key in helping me expand the business and support my family and retirement needs. Thank you so much for your consideration of this bill...please vote YES!

Bailey Hebert
Self, cottage baker
Waco, TX

Vote yes so we can ship!

Alycia Cashion
Self - Home Baker
Keller, TX

This bill is so important to the growth of my business and SAFETY of my family. As a home baker, the requirement of having to place my home address on our labels is unsafe and honestly just not necessary. Our customers can contact us via email or phone and that information on our labels is more than sufficient. The addition of being able to increase the sales cap to \$100k will allow us to provide real income for our families and serve more people. Lastly, adding refrigerated items for those of us who would like to make them will allow menu expansion and allow us to continue to provide services and create memories for our clients. Please consider the positive social, familial and economic impact that this bill will have on our great state!

Andy Janca
Self, Farmer
Goliad, TX

SB 829, if passed, would allow us to place our cottage goods (mainly jellies, pickles, picante) in multiple outlets that we currently cannot maintain a physical presence in as required by the current cottage law. Being a husband and wife operation, time constraints do not allow for us to be direct selling at several outlets that have expressed an interest in selling our goods. Wholesaling to these outlets would open up new markets for us, and allow us to continue to grow our business. Also, while we have not had any issues with local health authorities, further protecting the intent of the cottage food law is not a bad idea, in my opinion. Thank you for your consideration in getting this passed.

April Brown
Self
MAGNOLIA, TX

I am a single mother of an adult handicapped daughter, I also make my living running a cottage bakery. I have only had my bakery for 2 years and thankfully I live with my boyfriend and do not have any rent to pay. The SB 829 bill offers so much more opportunity to make a living when you are just staring out. It helps in so many ways to offer financial freedoms to work from home. I am currently struggling to make ends meet, but if this bill passes I would not have any trouble under the proposed laws. My daughter needs a stay at home mom, I need a full time income that is realistic to obtain. Please vote for SB 829 so many cottage bakers need this bill to pass. Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica Santana

Self, Homemaker and Cottage Baker

Saint hedwig, TX

The proposed SB 829 would be a significant help to local entrepreneurs like myself who are struggling to make ends meet in the current economic climate. This bill would increase the sales cap to \$100,000 per year, which would enable me to expand my small business and generate more income for my family. As a stay-at-home mother of two trying to support my family while my husband is deployed, this increased revenue would be a valuable contribution to our household finances.

The addition of refrigerated baked goods to the list of allowed foods would enhance my product offerings and cater to a broader range of customers. The ability to sell cottage foods wholesale would provide more visibility for my small business and lead to job creation and economic growth in the community.

This bill would also allow me to safeguard my privacy and security by making home addresses on labels optional. As a woman and a small business owner, I cherish the ability to work and be safe at the same time. This provision would enable me to manage my business without undue safety concerns.

In conclusion, SB 829 offers invaluable opportunities for female entrepreneurs and cottage food producers, and I fully support it. It would provide safety and economic welfare for aspiring female business owners like myself who wish to contribute to their families and communities while raising their children. I implore the House Public Health Committee to approve this crucial bill, which would have a significant impact on local entrepreneurs.

Courtney Trevino

Self

Azle, TX

This would be a huge win for us small business owners.

Marlene Thiessen

Self

Seminole, TX

Please co-author the SB 829 to pass as it would be a huge help to increase our household income to help with all the increase in living expenses we all deal with.

Anna Combs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please support this bill. The cottage laws need to be changed.

Jessica Smith

Self

Forney, TX

I am wanting this for myself as i am a cottage baker. I can really benefit from completely as it could bring my business more income. I have people asking for things like cheesecake and puddings in which i cant currently sell. I support this bill 100 % and hope it gets pushed through to pass.

Silvia Sanchez

Self

Cypress, TX

Passing this bill would be amazing to me and my business. The reason is for my safety in not having to provide my address on labels. Offering more desserts would boost my sales and also be able to wholesale my items. As this is my primary job, it would give me the opportunity to continue working from home and be available for my children. Thank you.

Alex Neagli

Self - Cottage baker

Cypress, TX

Please pass!

Belinda Pena

Self

Round Rock, TX

Cottage bakers have too many limitations placed on them. Many times, these individuals have sacrificed their livelihood to see their dream through but the red tape makes it almost impossible to truly be successful, not to mention the danger they put themselves in by having to share their home address on their goods. In this technological age, an email address is more than sufficient. And by raising the sales cap to \$100,000, you are giving these home bakers a chance to be able to see worth in their hard work. It's time to let these bakers do what they are so good at without worrying about Health Department over-reach.

Jennifer Sweet

self, cottage baker

San Antonio, TX

This bill will help me, my family, my community, and other local businesses. I bake and sell homemade baked goods at a friend's retail shop, and give the shop owner a portion of my proceeds. Under the current cottage laws, I have to be present for all of my sales, but if this bill is passed, I will be able to wholesale with the shop so I can sell more goods more often, which will be a benefit for both of us. As a baker who makes everything in my home kitchen, I also don't like having to list my personal residence on all of my products due to personal safety, and this bill would allow me to instead leave an alternate form of contact so my home address is not public knowledge to everyone who purchases from me.

Cody Andrews

Self (Maintenance Manager)

Waco, TX

This bill will greatly benefit Texans in the cottage food production business as well as protect their privacy. As a husband of a cottage food baker, I worry about the privacy and well-being of my wife when I am away or at work while she is working. Please pass this bill to support small businesses and keep Texas families safe.

Roberta Brinkman

Self, a Texas cottage baker & my community

Dime Box, TX

Please pass HB829! I live in a very rural area, where there are no commercial bakeries and the retail offerings are limited and just okay, to be kind. It is my pleasure and honor to bake goods for our small community. HB829 would allow me to serve my community even more with additional variety and the ability to market products wholesale to establishments that have asked about adding my products to their shelves for years. Further, the proposed labeling changes will help ensure the safety of home-based bakers, many of whom may be single, elderly, have children on premise, etc. Texas cottage bakers are professionals of high standards, known in their communities, who take pride in their craft and produce quality products. Please pass HB829 so we can take our profession to the next level. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Thornton, Baker

Self

Lufkin, TX

This bill would add beneficial allowances to my home bakery... allowing me to sell cheesecakes, which are often requested and very easy to chill safely, just like a “restaurant”. I could also sell wholesale to local businesses, with a great downtown full of possibilities. Also, it would raise the maximum income, allowing me to better serve my family’s needs while still working from home. As a mother of four, this is a great benefit. Thank you for your consideration, and encouraging free enterprise and hard work.

Sherri peters

Self

Conroe, TX

I agree with this bill S cottage bakers do need more leniency

Sharon Kiely

Self - Retired

Wimberley, TX

In a time when our economy needs a boost and fallout of unemployment following COVID, please allow our small in-home bakers to continue unfettered by further restrictions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon M. Kiely

Wimberley, TX

Sue Schrowang

Self / Retired

Commerce, TX

My daughter in law runs a home bakery to supplement their income. My granddaughter has severe food allergies and the family relies on this income for safe food. She also has allergy clients who would benefit from purchasing safe food at other locations. This bill would increase opportunities to build her business and supply more income.

Wes Hodges
Self - Cottage bakery
Elgin, TX

I want to take moment to encourage the House to pass SB 829. My wife and I currently run Teaspoons Bakery (@teaspoonsbakerytx on Facebook if you would like to see what we do) from our home. We are known for Bundt cakes and cookies. We have an incredible cheesecake recipe that would take us to the next level, but cannot currently sell it. We have a great Boston Cream Pie Bundt that we cannot sell. We have a great pumpkin pie we cannot sell. We would like to partner with businesses to sell our desserts, but currently cannot. We would love to see our business be able to succeed and SB 829 will give us that opportunity. We encourage you to help small businesses succeed by passing SB 829.

Dolores Williams
Self- home baker
Rockwall, TX

These changes would greatly benefit my home bakery business. I am a Mom of 4, and with inflation and the economy, these changes would make a big impact for our family.

Yvonne Barber
Self
Austin, TX

I love working as a cottage food baker. It started for me as making ends meet financially in 2011 and now, I am able to sell cakes at reasonable prices to those who want a cake that fits their budget. I have built my skill in baking and adding to my menu would be wonderful for refrigerated items. Raising the cap will allow me to reach more in areas in bigger celebrations.

To see this bill pass would benefit me and my family in great ways. I am grateful to have been allowed to create a small business and aim to continue to follow all guidelines in the law. I Thank you for the opportunity to give this bill a hearing and looking forward to see what the outcome will be.

Sincerely
Yvonne Barber

Teresa Anthony
Sugar Ants Cottage
Azle, TX

I would like to ask for your support of SB 829 by Kohlhorst.

The passage of this bill would allow cottage food producers to operate as a full-fledged business. Being allowed to wholesale our products for a broader customer reach is beneficial to all - the cottage food producer can sell more product; the wholesale purchaser has a new/different/exciting product to offer their customers; the consumer has better access to the products we produce. As well as broadening our customer base, this bill would also allow us to expand our offerings with the addition of refrigerated baked goods.

Along with the broader reach to the end consumer comes a greater potential for an increase in sales/income. The income cap needs to be adjusted because inflation makes it necessary. My business is a source of supplemental income for my family. My husband and I both work full-time jobs and it seems we will never be ready for retirement, which is quickly approaching.

The option to remove our home addresses from our labels, via DSHS registration, is hugely beneficial to those of us who may have jobs (such as law enforcement) where having this information readily available could be detrimental to their safety.

In closing, SB 829 will allow us to broaden our reach as small business owners/operators. We work hard to produce excellent products and just need the tools to get them to consumers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Adalberto (Trey) Gonzalez
Self
Austin, TX

This would help our small pickling business tremendously. Now praying for the shipping within the Texas bill ???? Ty!

Phillip Reed
self / software engineer
San Antonio, TX

I would like to encourage you to please support SB 829. My wife is a cottage baker, and being able to wholesale baked goods would be fantastic for us. Needing to personally sell every item to its final recipient takes a huge amount of time and effort, and it would be much easier for her to make a living if she could sell goods wholesale to shops that would then sell them to customers. I understand that the law was originally written as it is to ensure that customers would be able to contact the original baker if they have any issues, but that is really unnecessary, since the stores that would be selling the goods obviously have contact information for the original baker, so being able to wholesale goods would just make the entire process much easier for everybody.

Amber Duren
Self
Burke, TX

Passing this bill would help us home bakers so much. It allows us more freedom in what we can offer. I like that our home address wouldn't have to be included for safety and privacy reasons. This is definitely a step in the right direction!

Trina Etier
Self
Bluff Dale, TX

Please pass this bill, it will help small business owners to keep going. It will allow for our safety, in removing our address from the labels. It will allow us to earn a better living by increasing the income limit. It will allow us to expand our selling locations and types with wholesale options. Thanks.

Carolyn Carter
Self
Denton, TX

As the owner of a cottage bakery, the passage of this bill will help me grow my business tremendously. As I have met so many wonderful people from throughout Texas and beyond while doing local events and festivals, I would love the opportunity to send these customers my treats whenever they wish and not have to rely on the being present. And the opportunity to provide even more diversity in my products, will help offer even more to my customers.

Please pass this bill to help myself and other bakers here in the great state of Texas.

An Nguyen-Do
Sweet Lizzie's Bakery
Grand Prairie, TX

Passing this bill will provide more for a family I know who has a severe allergy kiddo to provide and grow for their family. Their home bakery brings in income to procure and grow more safe foods for their allergy kiddo, who currently only has maybe 4 safe foods that are commercially processed that she can consume. Everything has been grown and vetted by the family. They increased flexibility and business growth would be life changing.

Renee Taylor
Good Morning Sunshine Bakery
Aquilla, TX

I believe this bill should be passed for many reasons. 1. To not cap our earnings. 2. To not have to put our home address on label. 3. To be able to use cream cheese and sell cream cheese products. 4. To clarify that the health department cannot require licensing

Jean Taylor
Self
Daingerfield, TX

I'm writing in favor of SB 829. I live in a rural area of NE Texas and am a home baker where we have a food desert of bakeries and If passed, SB 829 will help me tremendously and I implore you to Co-Author this bill and vote in favor of it. Thank you.

Rita Quintero
Bake Me Away
Fort Worth, TX

Would like to see this bill passed to help improve the business climate for cottage businesses. In today's environment safety is a great concern and I think removing the requirement to put a home address on the label is important. Also, increasing the income cap is encouraging for these business owners to keep growing their business. This will help support them, their family, and community. Please pass this bill for our friends and family. Thank you.

Shelley Dance
Sea-Sum Treats/self
Lufkin, TX

This new Cottage Food law would not only open up new opportunities for myself, but other fellow bakers. The option to not put my home address on the labels would definitely make me feel safer in my home, since I am a single mother. The fear of someone that I sold products to breaking into my home is a definite concern! Also opening up the opportunity to wholesale my products would help immensely in my overall business. I have currently turned down several opportunities to sell my products wholesale under the current cottage food law. Please consider passing this bill it would help so many Cottage Bakers. Thank you!

Rachel Canafax
Realtor
Grapevine, TX

As a huge supporter of local businesses I would love to see some more freedoms given to local farms, beekeeper, bakers, etc... I am a real estate broker and one of my client's favorite gifts is homemade treats at closing and Christmas time. As a consumer it is my responsibility to know who I am buying goods from and I would like more freedom to be able to buy items like cheesecake from my local baker if that is what I so choose. I have had food poisoning twice in my lifetime, once from fast food and once at a well known restaurant but never from a local baker who deal with the start to finish of EVERY ingredient in their kitchen. Please consider allowing less restrictions on our Texas bakers through cottage laws and in turn allowing adults more freedoms-we are, after all Texans who pride ourselves on being a constitutional republic and not a democracy!

Katherine Garza
Self - Home Bakery partner
Cypress, TX

This bill would allow my daughter and I to expand our home bakery. We have so many requests to ship good, stock goods in local businesses, etc. and we are unable to due to current laws. We would love the opportunity to take our business as far as we can go!

Gemma Matherne
Self - cottage baker
Pflugerville, TX

Cottage baking is how I support my family. Being able to expand what I sell, and increasing the sales cap, would make a huge difference. Being able to wholesale, and collaborate with other local businesses would help strengthen our community.

Eneida Negron
Self- cottage food business owner
DeSoto, TX

Please approve Bill SB 829, and support our small and micro business. We have a lot to offer while we help to boost the economy. This bill could enhance the possibilities for micro and small business to expand and grow. Please help us now, our business will help you to build on and grow the Texas economy.

Stephanie Clark
Representing SeaSum Treats
The hills, TX

Thank you

Cindy Hunter
Self
San Marcos, TX

Thank you for allowing comments on this bill. I am a Texas Native and have always been an entrepreneur of some sort which allowed me to help support our family while raising my children. I now have a cottage food cookie business that has taken off. It is supplementing my husbands retirement income and we are having a ball providing yummy sweets that brighten parties and events, as well as celebrate lives of our customers when they pass. It is a heart felt business and true passion. This bill will allow us to shift our business into a path that will lift our family into a new season and allow us to be more present with our upcoming grandchildren.

I also feel that removing the address from our label will help with safety of local bakers across the state. Being a rural baker, I meet people in safe areas, but not everyone has that luxury and have people pickup at their home. The way this world is right now, it isn't safe to have our home addresses blasted across our area, especially when most of the small cottage businesses are run by young Mom's home alone with their children and it makes them vulnerable to any crazy that sees the opportunity to harm them. My family has a long line of law enforcement in it and we were taught early on that our home is a safe place, don't give our address to strangers, don't let people follow you home. But right now we are actually doing that on a broad spectrum in our labels and on the internet. This bill allows us some anonymity of our home along with providing a place for consumers to find us if they have a legitimate need to through the state.

Thank you again, the cottage bakers of Texas appreciate you.

Rebecca McBride
Batch Please Cookie Co
Harlingen, TX

As a cottage food baker, having my home address on labels has created a safety risk for me and my children. Sometimes people just stop by not understanding it's a home and you can't just enter at will.

Increasing the income cap also allows me to provide provide for my family which has been difficult as the increase in inflation and ingredients.

It is a much needed adjustment to the current law in place and will allow us to thrive

Tisha Frank
Self, cottage baker
Spring, TX

I stay home with my young children, and this bill will give me the ability to contribute more to my family as a cottage baker.

Yvonne Layne, Owner
GG's Gifts and Treats
MANSFIELD, TX

As a Food Cottage Baker this Bill will impact my business in such a possitive way. I whole heartedly support this Bill and hope you vote for it. Thank you for all that you do.

Dawn Cook
Witches Hearth Bakery
San Antonio, TX

I believe in Witch's Hearth Bakery. Jen Sweet makes wonderful baked goods that should be available to all. I have used her services several times - quality is amazing and she should be allowed to try expanding her business in all ways possible

Michele Vandiver
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I am for this bill. Cottage bakers could use the extra support in earning for their families. They should not have to use their personal address on labels. They should be allowed to have more variety in what ingredients they can use to make more baked goods. Thank you for your consideration.

Tamra Westberry
Self
Spring Branch, TX

My daughter and I both have Celiac Disease, which means we can't eat wheat, barley, or rye or anything in cross contact with gluten. This restricts the places we can buy fresh baked goods to less than a handful. Expanding this cottage law will give the bakers in our area more freedom. Gluten free cottage bakeries are offering a vital service for those who have Celiac Disease. Please pass this important bill.

Elizabeth Pennington
Self
Kyle, TX

I am In favor of this bill and the many it will support.

Trina Williams
Self homebaker
Red Oak, TX

Please, support more freedom for Cottage Bakers! The ability to produce from home is a great option for so many. Texans want the option to choose how we provide for our family and our customers want the ability to purchase outside the options currently available. I wish I could list the amount of times I've been asked to wholesale my cookies somewhere, and I have to explain why I can't. Thank you!

Kimberly Dudley
Self
Harker Heights, TX

SB 829 would positively change my small business! I have a Cottage Food bakery and this bill would open up so many more opportunities to grow! Being able to add some refrigerated foods and the ability to wholesale would be a game changer for not only myself but all of the amazing cottage food vendors in this great state!
Also, making the home address optional with registration would add a better sense of safety to me and my family.

Ellen Malone
Self
Argyle, TX

This important bill needs to pass, not only to improve the ability of cottage food crafters to make sustainable livings, but to preserve and educate their eager customers regarding their crafts. Small batch baking/canning skills are important sustainable skills that have long been part of the American rural fabric and skilled artisans share these skills with eager customers through their wares. These food products truly are edible pieces of Americana and are important pieces of our heritage and pioneer spirit. Supporting this bill supports more than just bakers; it supports the skills and spirit of Texas Pioneer Women and the contributions they continue to give to our great state!

Angela Pena
Pena cookie co
Junction, TX

This bill you open up so many opportunities for my small business I would be able to offer many things I couldn't in the past and the earnings increase it's fantastic as well

Jon Dudley
Self Baker
Harker heights, TX

Allowing cottage food companies to sell wholesale will allow for companies like this to reach a wider market and possibly become a full fledged company. I do not think that there would be any adverse actions to allowing this.

Jennifer Smith
self
Coppell, TX

I support cottage bakers and their production of safe and delicious foods from home.

Jennie Fitch
Self, baker
San Antonio, TX

I fully support this bill. There are things in this bill that make it safer for me to operate a business.

Kathy Watson
Kathy Watson
San Antonio/TX, TX

I support this Bill as we need an increase in products and amounts to be earned. Thank you to all who support this improvement for Texans who work from home.

Ricardo L Felan, CEO
Self/General Contractor
San Antonio, TX

In favor of SB 829, please pass the bill.

Rebekah Butler
Self
Hughes Springs, TX

We need reform to the Baker's Bill. Texans should be able to make their own wise decisions as to whether or not but something from an individuals home made product. The economy is very hard right now and expanding this measure will help grow Texas. Please pass the bill.

Karen Severn
self, farmer
Cisco, TX

food Cottage laws in Texas are great, but they can be BETTER!!! There have not been widespread reports of food poisoning or adulteration of products. Please pass this update as quickly as possible. Texas should lead the nation on these issues and the reduction of bureuacracy!

Julie Svoboda
Self
Houston, TX

Please support SB 829 . As a cottage baker the changes would allow positive changes in my business and allow for more support of my family in these trying times .

Tamala Melnar
Self
Dublin, TX

I support this bill

Kristi Hvidbjerg
self, Owner/Baker at Windy Hill Sweets
Burton, TX

As the owner/baker of Windy Hill Sweets, I strongly encourage you to support SB 829. This bill will positively impact many, but for me and my business, it will provide greater personal safety (removing my home address from my cottage food labels) and it will expand the paths I can pursue to sell my products (wholesale opportunities). As my business grows, this bill will also provide me opportunities to increase my income by raising the sales cap.

Aside from individual custom orders, which can be sporadic, the majority of my current business inquiries are for wholesale/partnership opportunities. The inquiries are from other small, local businesses in my area. Being unable to comply, I am losing out on a regular income stream and the huge opportunity of supporting and networking with other local, small businesses.

Thank you for your time.

Twyla Beth Lambert
daughter, home baker/candy maker (Tinkering Kindly is her DBA)
Frisco, TX

Passing this bill will make it easier for my daughter to successfully build a business -- unnecessary barriers and hoops become completely deal-killing for my AuDHD entrepreneur who is desperately trying to figure out how to adult and support herself. Also, the requirement to put her home address on EVERY product label is SO unsafe in today's world. I can't believe that was *ever* a requirement -- it's so risky to home bakers' personal safety. If for no other reason, please pass this bill so my daughters and others can have that extra layer of security in being able to keep their address off their business materials and labels.

Heidi Ullrich
Self
Ledbetter, TX

As I look for ways to grow my small business, I would love to be able to sell cheesecake and add my homemade pumpkin pies to what I can offer to my customers. I would also love to be able to sell my baked goods at a shop where I don't have to be physically present for my customer to get their favorite desserts. I have a full time job in addition to my business, so this would allow me to reach more customers. In addition, I could grow my business to a level that I could actually make it my full time job because I can earn enough money with the increase in the earning cap. Please vote in favor of this bill.

Shelli Assiter
Self
Fulshear, TX

Please pass this bill for the small kitchen entrepreneurs to grow our businesses. This could help us increase our income and help with growing the economy.

Thank you,

Shelli Assiter

Courtney Wolverton
Texas cottage food makers
Gladewater, TX

This is important to me because it would allow for my business to grow to provide for my family.

Jennifer Pitts
Self
Pasadena, TX

We have come so far in creating a standard in food products allowed at events. This bill will help enhance that work. As a market coordinator and small business owner, I see firsthand what the Cottage Food Law has done to help home bakers. Allowing them even more opportunity to sell their products not only helps them, but helps small business owners (like myself). Please help small business to continue to grow in Texas!

Karen Libby
Self home baker
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill and I hope you will too. The cottage food industry is good for Texans and good for Texas, as it allows parents to create income and continue to be present to their families. Raising the income cap will allow more money to be spent in our communities and empower people to do more for themselves and their families.

Dodie Brice
Self
Newcastle, TX

I pledge my support for HB 829. The passing of this bill would enable many home based businesses to expand their offerings. Many of these businesses are ran by single mothers, women such as myself and minorities. By supporting this bill we stand behind small businesses and are helping our communities thrive. Thank you for your time.

Ivonne Alfaro
Self
Barksdale, TX

I live in a small community and this would tremendously help us and our local economy. We are a very tight knit community.

Byron Lambert
Self, The Lambert Family
Frisco, TX

Please pass this bill! It will make things easier for family businesses and also safer since your home address will not be published. Thank you!!!

Tamara Burttschell, Owner
Self-lizzie sweetlicious bakery
West Columbia, TX

. Please change . the law for Texas cottage law providers to be able to sale to customers outside of Texas. Please allow providers to ship to other States. Please allow.providers to sale on social media platforms such as on Etsy. Instagram Facebook to other States thanks

isabelle driel
Self
Comstock, TX

I support this bill. Cottage food production is an amazing way to get extra income at a “human scale”. It is also a great way to try a business before committing to a break and mortar store. The more people can be free making money with their skills, the better.

Peggy Richards
Self, retired
Longview, TX

Pass

Sheila Gilliam
Self - Home Baker
Paris, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Grace Lambert
Self marshmallow maker
Frisco, TX

I am an Autistic cottage food business owner and if this passes it would make it easier to operate and make it safer for me not to have to share my home address. The opportunities this would bring is awesome in it's scope.

Nicole Gaffney
Self-baker
Pflugerville, TX

This bill passing would change so many businesses! The ability to sell wholesale would not only benefit the home baker but would also benefit the businesses we are able to offer baked goods to!

Adjusting the amount we can make would allow us to build businesses that are more sustainable and able to benefit the state as a whole!

Allowing us to remove our address is simply a safety issue.

Opening up the things we can sell to include refrigerated items is going to allow for us to sell so many new things and expand our reach!

Overall this bill would help the state and its residents in building a Texas we all want to see. Local, independent, growing and thriving.

Barbara Williford
Self/Royalty Sweet Shoppe, LLC
De Berry, TX

I am a former educator who retired when COVID hit. Cottage Baking is now my full time job and source of income. This bill would benefit other businesses like mine tremendously, open more doors to serve the community, and keep families safe with the public knowing addresses. In this day and age, it is so crucial to support small businesses who are trying to support families and improve their quality to life. Please pass this bill. This is just another step in continuing to improve Texas and why we are the most blessed state in the Union. Thank you! #TexasStrong

Tonia Williams
T-Cakes by Tonia
Houston, TX

I support this bill. The current regulations has so many obstacles for small businesses.

Tamara Riojas
Self
Elgin, TX

I support SB 829 that updates and improves the Texas Cottage Food Law, making it easier to buy and sell food produced by small local businesses.
Thank you.

Dennis Kozak
chef
The Woodlands, TX

Need to pass

Marci Meyerhardt
Self
Frisco, TX

Please support this bill. In these economic times, income from cottage industries is a necessity, not a frivolity.

Alicia Gray
Self
Arlington, TX

I support SB 829 because it provides additional options for cottage food operators who are small business owners. There is still much “talk” about people who have left the workforce and are not returning, but what we don’t hear about is how many of those people are not returning because they have formed small businesses. People who have not returned to the workforce, myself included, are not just lazy and don’t want to work, they just no longer want to work for someone else. Cottage food producers work just as hard and often more hours than employed people and are proud of the products they can offer.

This legislation expands the types of foods that can be offered and places where cottage foods can be sold, which will give more opportunities to cottage food producers to grow their businesses and increase their value to their communities.

Please pass this bill and send it to the governor for his signature to support home based small businesses.

Elizabeth Hollingsworth
Self: Sift and Sip, home bakery
San Antonio, TX

It’s so unsafe to require a home address on food labels. I have a security system set up but having my personal address on thousands of products all over the city is alarming. A home baker in another state with a similar law was sexually assaulted at gunpoint. I’d like every precaution to be taken to protect home bakers!

Patricia Farris
Self
Santa Fe, TX

The passage of this bill will greatly enhance cottage food participants

Nicole Parsons, Ms
Self entrepreneur
San Antonio, TX

The passing of this bill would produce only positive outcomes for everyone that partakes in cottage food production as well as the community. With inflation skyrocketing it would help some families have an extra source of income to buy the necessities for their young ones. It would also help to keep more money in the community and away from big corporations and provide more options to bake that are typically favorites amongst all Texans. This bill isn't asking for anything crazy or ridiculous, it is just asking to have a little more flexibility so that the person who is hoping to really grow into a actual business has the ability to do that with more room to help them not just survive each day but also be able to save money to buy their first store.

Melissa Hodges
Sweet Everythings' Bakery
FORT WORTH, TX

This bill is very important to me as a cottage Bakery. It would really expand my possibilities and help me grow the business that allows me to care for my family.

Cara Renner
self-cottage baker
MURPHY, TX

Please support SB829! With the passage of the bill so many opportunities will open up to Texas Cottage bakers like myself.
Please support SB 829

Cynthia Smith
Self
Houston, TX

I have had a business operating under the Texas Cottage Food Law since 2012. I have carefully made sure to adhere to all requirements of that law, but have been saddened by how frequently I see others flouting it. I often see people selling time & temperature controlled items, mailing items, etc.
please consider support this bill to allow more people to legally operate a Cottage Foods business to help support their family.

Kathy Novian
Mann & Frau Country Store
San Angelo, TX

This bill would help small business that are trying to grow. Help us make that happen.

Lisa Drude
Self
Livingston, TX

I am writing in support of SB 829 and ask that Rep. Ashby do so as well. In these times of economic unrest, the last thing we need to be worried about is how to feed our families. I am a disabled vet and my husband is a vet as well. We live on a fixed income. The food supply chain is broken and prices are getting too high for even basic necessities. This bill can help make sure that food is available, even in our small community. Please support this bill.

Holly Wilkinson
Self, wish to be a home baker
Boerne, TX

I love to bake macarons and wish the bill can be changed to allow us to use butter an cream cheese as long as the item stays refrigerated/cold up until the sale/exchange of goods. Macarons filled with crisco isn't as good and also is not healthy.

Dawn Carpenter
Self/retired teacher/home baker
Waco, TX

Please support SB 829. As a retired teacher, I sell baked goods under cottage law to supplement my pension. By passing this bill, I could expand my menu to meet the needs of my customers & earn more income for myself. Thank you

LaTrece Miller
Home bakers
McKinney, TX

I support sB 829

Jim Johnson
Self baker
Fort Worth, TX

Please support this legislation. We started as a cottage food business and now expanded to a full commercial bakery. This law will encourage more people to start their own businesses and become more financially stable while providing a more robust tax base for our state.

Tiffany Thibault
Self
Mineral Wells, TX

SB829 loosens and changes restrictions on small businesses that sell baked goods, jams, jellies, at local farmers markets, from their homes, at vendor events. Our neighbors that everyone loves to meet up and see. It's often healthier than store bought alternatives and able to be customized to our liking. Everyone I have spoken to here in Texas SUPPORTS SB 829 and wants to ask the House to please pass SB829 for the benefit of not only all Texas small home bakeries, but for all Texans.

Arielle Easter
Self
Humble, TX

I support this bill! This bill would open many doors for my small business. I'm a stay at home mother of 4, so being able to be a home baker and be home with my babies has been a blessing.

Deadre Arden
Self
Longview, TX

Please, please hear the voice of thousands of small business people (women mostly) who needs this bill. Thank you!

olivette Pena fisher
Ollie Oats LLC
Olmito, TX

Please support SB 829. Help support small business and their efforts to expand.

Sarah Arnold
Self, home bakery
Whitney, TX

Please support this bill! We desperately need this to pass to allow the home cottage food bakers and farmers to thrive and grow.

Marcia Riggins
Self
Spring, TX

Please pass this bill, it is greatly needed

Debra Broyles
Self owner of Debbie's Tasty Cakes
Clarksville, TX

Please support this bill so that Cottage Bakers may continue growing their small businesses.

Cliffton Brown
Tidbits By Christen
Georgetown, TX

I am writing to ask my Representative to support SB 829, the cottage food bill by Kolkhorst. It has already passed the Senate. Please ask my Representative to ask Chairwoman Klick to set SB 829 for a hearing right away, before time runs out. I am going to start my business using the Cottage Law. I support all the changes and would love for this to be approved.

Victoria McLure, PhD
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am absolutely in favor of the changes being proposed. This will open new avenues for all of us. As was discussed when the first bill was passed, this allows so many people who cannot, for whatever reason, to work out of the home to make a living. In these difficult times, the more ways cottage bakers can sell their products, the better. During COVID, cottage bakers survived because they could easily have "no contact" pick-up. Help all of us survive and thrive. If the goal in Texas is for people to be able to make a living, feed their families, and pay for housing, then the expansion of the bill will aid in all of those areas. We all know that inflation is causing huge problems. Sometimes, that extra \$200 per month can mean the difference between eating and not eating. Expanding the avenues where products can be sold will provide so many more options and opportunities. I urge you to pass this bill.

Ashlynn Gleason
Self
Katy, TX

The use of refrigerated ingredients would allow more opportunities for cottage food operators to expand their business. The price cap increase would also be helpful for these entrepreneurs.

Deborah Bartley
Self
Brenham, TX

I am in support of SB 829 as both a cottage baker and a consumer. Individuals should not be prevented from making a living. There was a time our government didn't interfere with the buying and selling of baked goods, etc. between individuals. It was handled by the individuals themselves. We should not have to ask permission from nor plead with our government to allow this but here we are.

Angela Davis
Self / Compliance
Hutto, TX

I am in favor of SB 829. This bill will provide countless new opportunities for local entrepreneurs to support themselves and their families especially in today's current climate with layoffs and high prices. This could allow people to stay in their homes, buy food and provide for their kids.

Melissa Phillips
Pecan Street Cookie Co.
Austin, TX

Please update and improve the TX Cottage Food Law by supporting SB 829, making it easier for Texans to buy and sell food produced by small local businesses. This will directly effect my livelihood since I provide for my family with my food sales. I want to be able to grow as a small business without the unnecessary capital to rent a commercial kitchen and/or physical location. I want to make my confections readily available to my customers who seek to get my products in the aisle of their local store. I strive for the utmost safety when I make my confections - I strictly adhere to all safety guidelines and know many other cottage food bakers who do the same. The labeling requirements are in desperate need of being updated - having our home addresses directly on the labels poses a safety risk to the maker. There have been instances where women were assaulted by male customers who watched how a cottage food operator has to operate from their home and stalked them like prey. These individuals (this has happened on multiple occasions to different cottage food operators) placed a false order with the cottage food operator and, when they showed up to pickup their order, they forced themselves in the door and sexually assaulted these women. All of this because they work from home and are required to make their address public on the labels. This is completely unacceptable and needs to finally be addressed with this update to the TX Cottage Food Law. It's time. Texan makers have been following the rules faithfully since the initial adoption of the TX Cottage Food Law. It's time to update it to allow them to flourish in this great state we call home. I'm proud to support Texas businesses and this is a great start to making this happen for small cottage food businesses in Texas like mine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Josh Ritchey
Self
Devine, TX

This bill enables my community to expand our business footprint and tax base In addition to the increased financial resilience.

Anna Mininkova
Self, Product Manager
Lago Vista, TX

This bill is critically important now, when the drought became a pretty much constant feature of Central TX weather, to help farmers generate more revenue and connect them with customers who want to buy local, delicious, healthy TEXAN food. Let's support our local farmers with this bill!

Jennifer Fernandez
Cookie Expressions by Jennifer/self
Mesquite, TX

I am a cottage law baker and this bill would make a huge impact on my small business. It would allow me if offer more bakers goods, allow more earnings, allow me to sell wholesale which I currently can't do, and clarify some of the things on our industry relating to local governments requirements to sell at farmer markets and other events. This bill is a game changer for us. My teenage daughter wants to start her own pie business, but she can't make pumpkin pies at Thanksgiving and Christmas due to current cottage laws. I want my daughter to be able to and inspired to open her own business to save for college and a car. Not many 13 year olds think that way and this bill would give her the opportunity to reach for the stars. We are asking for support to pass this bill. Thank you.

Guy Geistman
Texas resident
Yoakum, TX

Please support this bill.

Sonya Mcneal
Owner of Reaux Of Sweets
Houston, TX

I am the owner and operator of Reaux Of Sweets which is a home bakery. Cottage Food Vendors should definitely be allowed to sell their products to co-ops and mom and pop shops, to start. Health department officials should not have so much say so in all matters of our operations. I have literally the best cakes in Houston, if not Texas and it has been empowering operating my business from home. I love sharing what I do with my customers. My dream is to be able to sell to grocery stores, not just the small ones.

Sheila Rodriguez
Pinewoods Cottage
Livingston, TX

I am so excited about SB 829.

Through the years, I have been unable to bake mini items that my customers have requested that are now on this list.

The passing of this bill will increase my family's income greatly. I hope that it passes and appreciate your support.

Thank you,

Sheila Rodriguez

Rhonda Lowry
self
Wolfforth, TX

Please support SB 829 as improving access to homemade foods through the cottage law will help us personally as we are a small farm and can items we grow on our farm. At this time we only sell direct to consumer, but being able to provide to co-ops or small grocers would increase our profit and exposure of our products. Thank you for your time.

Jane Phillips
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill!

corrine arnold
self
cleburne, TX

Please support passing SB829 to facilitate cottage food products for us consumers. I want these unique products that support Texas growers and businesses.

Germaine Swenson
Munkebo Farm
Manor, TX

I am in favor of expanding the cottage foods production to include small stores and coops. I have a farm and produce products that fall under the current law. This helps small producers to stay in business and expand their income streams.

Laura Mullen
The Pergola
HOUSTON, TX

I am a backyard gardener and beekeeper. This bill would allow me to can my produce without having a commercial kitchen. I believe it's important to allow small growers and canners to be able to sell their foods. I am a Texas licensed food handler, and I follow all guidelines to produce safe food. Please let us have a voice at the food table. It would be great if we could have hens again, too! Let Texans grow and sell their own food!

Nadine Fahnestock
Self/Retired
Georgetown, TX

Please vote to pass SB 829. This is so important to Home Bakers, especially retired homemakers like myself trying to supplement my Social Security income. I would appreciate any help you can give in getting SB 829 passed into law.. The bill is set for a House hearing Monday, May 15, at 10:00 AM in the Public Health committee. Thanks again for your help.

Eileen Salazar
Self
Houston, TX

I am a Baker and in full support of this bill. Please pass.

Kendra Myers

Self, Texas Cottage Food Producer

Fort Worth, TX

I have to work from home. The Texas Cottage Food Law opened so many new doors for me but with a few obstacles. Passing SB829 will remove so many of those obstacles. Being able to sell my canned foods via wholesale means more food freedom for Texans but more time at home for myself and my family. I won't have to set up at a farmers market for 6 hours in the Texas weather praying for a sale. I can sell to small business for their brick and mortar stores and my customers can come when it's best for them. It's a win win win. A win for the small business because now my customers are theirs as well, a win for the customers because they're not inconvenienced, and a win for me as well because I have more time with my family.

Jennifer Wright

Self

Houston, TX

I run a cottage food bakery part time so that I can stay home to take care of my young children during the day. Being able to increase my income by having the ability to offer more products, wholesale products, as well as increasing the income limit would help my business and my exponentially. Please pass this bill to help our Texas entrepreneurs flourish!

Susie Fergus

Oh My Goodies Texas Toffee & Treats

Tyler, TX

As a cottage food (female) business owner, I am **HIGHLY** in favor of the expansion of our Cottage Food Law with SB 829. Removal of personal location information from the labeling is a high priority due to security reasons. Enabling cottage food owners to operate with a higher income ceiling aligns with Texas's pride in being a state where businesses can succeed to the level of aspirations of the business owner (and have you recently tried supporting a family on less than \$50K??). Allowing CF businesses to sell in venues with less restrictions allows a business like mine to expand while still adhering to the list of approved items they current law dictates (which in itself provides protections for consumers and producers alike). Please support this bill -- it benefits so many Texans who rely on the opportunities that a cottage food business provides to our day jobs and our quality of life in this fine state. Thank you.

Jennifer Nelson

Self. Housewife

Roscoe, TX

I, as a past producer and current consumer, support this bill. I feel that this bill will benefit both producers and consumers by expanding the variety of baked goods allowed to be produced as well as increasing availability by opening up more options for marketing through wholesale.

Sharlene St. Julien
Self, Home Baker
BEAUMONT, TX

Please support SB829 Cottage Food Reform. This bill is really important to small home businesses in that it will make it so much easier for us to sell our products and make them more available in our communities. We will also be able to support customers more broadly on that we can fill the need for many who want to eat natural, unadulterated, local products.

The bill helps people like me to be independent, serving our communities, being productive citizens and adding to the quality of life for those we serve.

Texas is a Leader. We set the standards for others to follow. Please give us a hand up and allow this bill to move forward to success.

SB 829 does the following:

Increases the annual sales cap from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Allows for sale of cottage foods through a wholesaler.

Gives the option to register with DSHS to remove your home address from the cottage food label.

Clarifies that local governments and health departments may not require permits of cottage food producers, and says they may not employ a person who knowingly violates this section.

Allows for the sale of baked goods that require refrigeration for safety -- yes, cheesecake. Pumpkin pie. Vegetarian casseroles.

Thank you so much.

Sharlene St. Julien

Tina Stone
Self/Caterer
Livingston, TX

This helps my business tremendously. I cater out of my home to different events and venues.

Taylor Morgan
Self-homemaker
Dallas, TX

As a sixth generation Texas ranching family, I am passionate about local agriculture, food production, and legislation that supports Texans' ability to make a living off our land and resources. I support SB 829 because cottage food sales support local farmers who generate more revenue by supplementing fresh produce sales with prepared products that they can sell year-round at a higher profit margin.

The current Cottage Food Law enabled thousands of small businesses to be launched in Texas, but some of the law's provisions still limit farmers and other entrepreneurs from building a viable business. This is why we need to pass SB 829!

Thank you for your consideration and for working to build a safer, healthier, more prosperous Texas through agriculture so we can preserve our state's rich legacy of farming and ranching for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Taylor Morgan
Dallas, TX

Taylor Summage

Self, cottage food business owner and operator

Little Elm, TX

After serving in the military, my husband and I returned to our home in Texas to pursue our passions. Mine being a home baker and providing my local community with plant based and allergen friendly sweets and treats. This bill would help expand my services and allow me to pursue my passion even more, allow me to support my growing family, and allow Texans to support their local/small businesses and communities.

Stacy Abraham

Self- Compliance Manager

FORT WORTH, TX

I love supporting local business. Please help make cottage food productions more sustainable and safe for small business owners. The proposed bill would help some of the local bakers I support such as "Bake me Away Sweets" be able to provide more products in a safe manner. Thank you!

Julianna Yeefoon, Mrs.

For Oak Cliff Farmers Market

Dallas, TX

We support this bill to expand the cottage food market for our local vendors statewide. These businesses are integral to our communities. We host a farmers market in which many cottage food vendors share their food with our community and they operate with integrity. They deserve to be able to bring their products to more retailers and to be able to grow their operations. Please support this bill.

Mila Joy Milliorn

Self systems analyst

Richland Springs, TX

I support this bill and ask you to pass.

Meridith Byrd

self; farmers' market manager

Victoria, TX

I manage the Victoria Farmers' Market, a collective of more than 60 food producers who supply local foods to the Victoria area. SB 829 will improve access to local foods (good for customers who cannot or do not shop at farmers' markets) and boost small businesses by giving them more outlets to sell their goods. This bill will open up options for entrepreneurs, allowing them to grow and expand their businesses, and allow customers to find local foods at more locations in their communities.

Hannah Beall, Owner
Han-Can LLC
Austin, TX

I have been a small cottage food business operator for 4 years. One of the reasons I have not been able to expand my business to more than hobby scale is due to the limitations of the law prohibiting selling to small grocers/shops/co-ops. As a single mother, selling at farmers markets is very difficult due to the huge weekend time commitment so I have a hard time moving my product. I have had many small shops and local farm cooperatives ask if they could sell my products or include them in their CSA share, but I have had to decline due to the current cottage food requirements. This change to the law would open up so many marketing opportunities for my business that I could potentially expand my business to a full-time operation. My business model uses strictly locally sourced fruits & vegetables that farmers have excess of to make pickles, ferments, jams, jellies, and hot sauces thereby reducing food waste and increasing profits for local farmers.

Amy Blea
self
Round Rock, TX

I am writing in support of SB 829. I have operated a cottage food business over 12 years here in Texas. By expanding on this current law bakers like me will be able to not only expand our menus, but it will give us an opportunity to reach a wider customer base with the ability to whole sale. I have worked in brick and mortar bakeries and what I learned through that experience is that it is important to have multiple streams of revenue to keep the business moving forward. The changes in these bill will provide additional avenues and make it easier for a cottage baker to make that transition from cottage to brick and mortar for those who want to go that route. My cottage food business has provided for my family over the years, helping to pay for college and other expenses, that I would not have been able to pay for other wise. Please vote yes on SB 829 to create new opportunities for many entrepreneurs in our great state of Texas.

Becky Weise
Weise Farms
Giddings, TX

We are a small farm, and we also make and sell cottage foods. Please help us and others to broaden our sales of homemade foods to all of the people and businesses that want to buy it. I support support local farmers who generate more revenue by supplementing fresh produce sales with prepared products that they can sell year-round for a sustainable income.

William Bryan
Bryan's Healthy Harvest, LLC
Seguin, TX

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, Dana Bryan, and I would like to express our support for SB 829 related to cottage food production operations.

We own and operate a small farm near Seguin, TX and sell our products at the San Marcos Farmer's Market, as well as purchase some of our food there.

With recent problems highlighting the fragility of our nation's (and state's) supply chain, it is important to take steps to strengthen the system and make food more secure. Much of our current system (especially in meats) has a severe bottleneck in the processing section. For example, 80% of all the beef slaughtered in the US is done so by four firms. This puts our meat supply in serious jeopardy.

Chicken processing in Texas is worse. There are currently two USDA processing centers in Texas. One is northeast of Dallas and the other is near Hillsboro. A third center near Lexington closed last year. I have yet to find a state facility and have heard there are none. This adds greatly to our costs and makes our chicken less affordable for the consumer.

When it comes to lamb it's not much better. We have found two facilities in the San Antonio area that are state certified to process lamb for sale. One is in San Antonio and the other in Poth. We will not use the one in San Antonio because we received complaints about the meat that was processed there, so if the processing center in Poth closes or stops taking lamb, we will not be able to sell our product at the farmer's market.

The current Cottage Food Law enabled thousands of small businesses to be launched in Texas, but some of the law's provisions still limit farmers and other entrepreneurs from building a viable business. This is why we need to pass SB 829!

Thank you,

William J. Bryan

Laura Crouch
Self - self-employed
Tuscola, TX

It is very important to me to have an easy source of whole clean foods. I have an autoimmune disease that can be controlled to a great extent by consuming a clean diet. Commercially available food products are full of chemical additives and preservatives that are not safe for consumption regardless of the positions of the FDA and USDA. Cottage food producers should be able to offer their products on any platform as long as they are labeled as such. Let the consumer make the decision of what is safe for them. The days of big business and government agencies serving our best interests is in the past.

Ginny McCormick
Creative Cooker
Galveston, TX

As a cottage baker, I am in favor of this bill. Please pass this bill.

marie bowland
self/ homesteading
boyd, TX

i feel that as an knowledgeable person i should be able to sell veggies that i have grown. sell my eggs to neighbors and friends along with my goats milk to those that need it for animals and humans that can't drink cows milk. we need to be able to provide canned food besides jams and jellies or things that need to be pressurized to our fellow humans. due to our government these days wanting to get rid of chicken farms, cows and pigs. we need to keep these farms open also due to the increasing numbers of people coming into our country we do have to feed them.

Janet Rygh
Self
Abilene, TX

This bill would greatly impact the cottage bakery industry for the better. I, myself run a cottage bakery from my home. There are currently numerous restrictions, but the main one that hinders my business from growing and flourishing is not being able to sell wholesale.

One thing that I have noticed with businesses, such as coffee shops, that sell baked goods purchased from a "wholesaler" (brick and mortar bakery or a food manufacturer fortunate enough to find a commercial kitchen to bake in) is that once the business purchases the baked goods, they do not need to indicate anything about said baked goods. There are no labels on the baked goods and most of the time, no sign of where the baked goods were purchased wholesale from.

If cottage bakers were allowed to sell to businesses, we are required to label every item with business name, address, allergens, etc., Essentially, the consumer would have more information about the baked goods than they currently do.

This is just one reason why I am fighting to get SB 829 by Kolkhorst passed. I implore you to do what you can to get it passed.

Thank you for your time.

Bronwyn Lunceford
self - unpaid caregiver
Huntsville, TX

State Bill 829 would provide opportunities to earn income while caring for my elderly mother. Cottage food production is something we have seriously considered, but a few concerns have held us back. In the new bill, the proposed ability to sell wholesale is a big plus, as is the provision to keep our home address off of labels. These days, safety is our first priority. At almost 89, her mind is still sharp (she's a former School Food Service Director, in the days when lunch ladies cooked REAL, wholesome food). Her head for business combined with some fabulous recipes and my baking could be a big hit! Thank you for seeing this bill through. I'm sure it will be a boon to many Texas families like ours.

Eloisa Hernandez
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

This will negatively affect, my cousin Taylor Summage, small cottage business, and that is not some thing that we need

Sarah Grasty
Self - farmer and baker
Rusk, TX

The cottage food industry is necessary to support Texas farmers and small businesses. As a person who struggles with gluten-intolerance, I immensely appreciate being able to go to farmer's market to buy goods made by locals who I can ask questions and even make requests for custom orders.

Robyn Hass, MPH
Self - Mom/Consultant
La Grange, TX

For Texas to survive and thrive in the future, we have to start revising laws that restrict commerce by small business owners so we can truly support "buy local" opportunities. As you know, the Texas cottage laws benefit both consumers and small producers, but there are still a few things that need to be altered to help meet the needs of our ever-changing food production environment. The changes outlined in SB829 are critical for our state's food production success, food stability/security and consumer health.

- Allowing "cottage food vendors" to resell cottage food products is long-overdue. Not everyone can attend a Saturday farmer's market. This change is critical and will allow small producers to grow and serve more people in their communities with wholesome, fresh foods. Allowing retail establishments to resell locally produced foods is just smart for public health and will make it more accessible to urban communities without farmers markets, while concurrently encouraging more and more Texans to become food producers for extra income. Less restrictions equals more business. It is hoped that the future requirements for "cottage food vendors" will not be so cumbersome as to dissuade retailers from making the effort to be a vendor.

- Allowing non-profits to participate in this manner means that they can add vital resources or teach entrepreneurship to the Texans that they serve. This as well is long overdue.

- Increasing the current annual income allowed for a cottage food operation from \$50,000 to \$100,000 encourages producers to invest more in their business, which will in turn increase the size of the local community they can serve. This will also encourage many Texans to consider cottage food production as an opportunity to create income for their families in trying times, further increasing local production.

- Removing the cottage food operator's home address requirement from the label is CRITICAL for their safety and well being. A larger company does not have to share it's employees home addresses, neither should a cottage food producer.

Thank you for considering these important and critical changes to the cottage laws via this bill. It's a great step forward for improving food access, food quality and consumer health.

In the future, I hope you will consider similar regulatory changes to small producer live plant sales.

Charlene Knadle
Little Dumpling's Place
North Richland Hills, TX

I support the passage of this bill and the increased opportunity for small businesses owners to sell their products and thereby support their families and local communities. These items are legally available to be sold directly to the consumer but not sold to a store or restaurant, it appears that the law is only there to protect big business.

Sheri Steinmetz, Mrs
Self
Manhaca, TX

We need to allow cottage foods. Many of my friends make and sell foods that are better nutritionally and made to a higher standard than commercial foods. In commercial food production there are allowable percents of rat feces, roach parts and mechanical greases in the food produced. In cottage foods there is no allowable percentage of those contaminants. Also, many cottage foods are made for customers who have food allergies that prohibit the customer from buying commercial foods made in plants that also process the allergens the customer must avoid.

Charles Bastian
Self
Elgin, TX

We support this 100%. This is the type of bill that needs to be brought up, and passed.

Olivia Kramer
Self- farmer
Pontotoc, TX

The expansion of the cottage food law to allow small business owners to sell their non-temperature sensitive foods in stores would be highly beneficial in many ways. For one, it expands the business owner's outlets through which he/she can sell their food items. In rural areas (like where our farm business is located), finding a consistent customer base is a constant challenge because business owners often have to travel far distances to make deliveries, attend vendor fairs, etc. Being able to sell those same low-risk food items out of a local shop for example would be a huge boost to small cottage food business owners. Secondly, it gives more options for local consumers to support small business in their communities. It is time for the state to start trusting consumers to make their own decisions regarding what foods they can buy for themselves. With the proper labeling, consumers are already notified that these cottage food items are produced in a home kitchen. People are able to determine for themselves whether they are comfortable with that and should be able to make that decision for themselves without the state dictating what they can and cannot buy from local producers.

Amber Duty
self
Round Rock, TX

Please pass this bill & remove some of the restrictions on cottage food preparation. Why would we limit any business to \$50k income in this day & age? I understand \$100k, as at that point you should be considered commercial, but \$50k is lower middle income. Why would any business owner want to run a business that can only bring in \$50k. Please encourage the spirit of entrepreneurs & give many who are homebound another way to be productive & help themselves & others too.

Brenda Patron
Vannis Cakes business owner
Hutto, TX

Hi
I'm business owner of home based bakery under cottage law I've been in business for 9 years
This new change proposal was in the Cottage law for baking good will benefits my business tremendously.
Thank you

Duane Rygh
Self - Business Manager Elda Grace Baking Co.
Abilene, TX

As a constituent of District 19 I am asking Congressman Jodey Arrington to co-author SB 829. This bill will allow cottage-based business the opportunity to grow their businesses by allowing them to offer their products to a larger base of customers. Growing small businesses should be at the forefront of every representatives agenda to grow the economic base of their districts and improve the quality of their constituents lives. Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Burkheart
Cedar Break Farms
Cleburne, TX

This is a critical bill to support local producers, families and our entire community.

Douglas Havemann
Mesquite Field Farm
Nixon, TX

Good afternoon,
My name is Doug Havemann. My wife and I own Mesquite Field Farm in Nixon, Texas. We also train Active Duty Military (Skill-bridge program), military veterans, under-served, and beginning farmers and ranchers in regenerative agriculture for a program called Battleground to Breaking Ground. Since 2015 we have trained over 700 participants. We are a small farm (20 acres) running multiple revenue streams as small farms are required to do in order to survive. While we do livestock, poultry, produce, bees, and agri-tourism, we also do cottage foods. We prefer to have no waste from any of our revenue streams. Therefore, we make a lot of cottage foods such as jellies, jams, pickled products etc. The Cottage Foods provide us the ability to produce up to \$50,000.00 annually from our kitchen. \$50,000.00 is a lot of money to a military veteran or an under-served farmer trying to make ends meet with inflation increasing and supply chains continuing to fail. Cottage foods (AKA foods made in a home kitchen for sale) support local farmers who generate more revenue by supplementing fresh produce sales with prepared products that they can sell year-round at a higher profit margin. The current Cottage Food Law enabled thousands of small businesses to be launched in Texas since its inception however, some of the law's provisions still limit farmers and other entrepreneurs from building a viable business. Please pass SB 829!

Rebecca Houston
Self
Longview, TX

As a Texas Cottage food Baker, I support SB 829. It is my full-time job and this bill would really make a difference in the ability to earn a little more money.

Niloufer Yasmeen
Self and homeBaker
Leander, TX

I strongly urge our representatives to vote in favor to make life easier for Americans who work from home as bakers - this allows moms and dads to raise their children and be there for them, creativity , ability to improve generations—

Searcy Farrell
self
Corpus Christi, TX

Currently, I am waiting on my Social Security Disability to be approved. I cannot work in a traditional environment due to physical and mental deficits. Why am I telling you this? Because being a cottage baker has allowed me to take back what was taken from me in the form of *some* independence. While I am not making a sustainable living yet, I find that being able to bake/sell when I can has been beyond beneficial for me mentally. However, the current Cottage Law is very restrictive, which makes the possibility of doing well in this line of business very difficult. If this bill passes, it will allow me to expand my business so that maybe I can, one day, not rely on both the US government (SSDI) and the Texas government (SNAP benefits, Medicaid) to take care of my children and myself. I have always been someone who works hard, ever since I was 16 years old. Not being able to work has absolutely devastated me on many levels. Originally, it was my therapist who suggested baking as a form of therapy and stress relief. Eventually, my family begged me to stop baking for them because they couldn't eat any more desserts. I started selling and then decided, you know what? I can do this for a living. It may not be able to cover rent, but it can give me a little extra pocket money to cover some other expenses, and it has. If this bill passes, it would open the door for me to explore new avenues in the kitchen, sell a wider variety of products, and be a more productive member of the Texas economy. Allowing cottage bakers to expand would directly and positively impact both local and state economies because we would have to buy product, packaging, labeling, etc. to make our foods. The more we're allowed to make, the more we're going to be spending. I would love to one day not be in a position to have to rely on SNAP benefits to feed my family. I would love to be able to pay for my household groceries with money I've made from selling cakes, cookies, cheesecakes, etc. I know I'm not the only one in this position. There are many cottage bakers who are stay-at-home parents, disabled, unable to find reasonable employment, etc that do well at this, but would do even better if given the opportunity. Please pass this bill and let us show you just how much the Texas economy can grow because of it.

Thank you for your time.

Mona Mehdy
Self, professor see
Austin, TX

I support the ability of Texas citizens to make and sell homemade foods.

Christy Galindo
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill is important to me and many in our state. It's important for the bakers who are able to use their culinary skills to earn money to help support their families, especially during a time when job security is rocky for many. It is important for Texas consumers who not only love the variety of locally made treats they can indulge in, but all truly helps keep their money invested locally by directly helping a local baker support themselves. As one with celiac and a part of my city's and state's gluten free communities, I know firsthand how difficult it can be to find great tasting and good quality gluten free breads and treats. As more and more large brands cut back on their production and distribution of gluten free products, the local bakers help fill a highly needed niche while simultaneously being able to help support their own families. As a consumer, I love the freedom to support genuine local small businesses and as a baker, I appreciate having the freedom and option to be able to make treats for myself and fellow celiacs, allowing me the opportunity to help support my family.

Kathleen Thompson
Homestead Texas Farm
Buckholts, TX

My husband and I retired recently and one of the ways we supplement our income is by taking homemade bread, jams and pickles to our local farmers market. We have a 21 acre farm where we grow the majority of the vegetables and fruits that we produce. My husband is the baker and he makes a delicious bread the approval of this bill would enable him to sell it in a small grocery store in our community.
Being able to source goods grown and produced in our neighborhood is better for the environment and helps to build community. A tremendous amount of food diversity would open up if individuals could sell their goods in their community.

Crystal Miller
Self
Ransom Canyon, TX

This newly revolutionary addendum would create so many opportunities for innovators such as myself. Our small business is so limited to growth because expansion is not possible with out copacking and other federal requirements. Yet Farmers markets, bake sales and other homemade goods the only requirements are a food handlers license. There is a demand for home made goods for the public which is why this addendum was created. Consumers should have the choice on what they consume and it is evident with the exponential growth of farmers markets and online food pages they want homemade products. And we as small businesses and vendors want to be able to grow and expand to meet these needs.

Melissa Moore
Self
Austin, TX

Cottage food products, like pickles and jams, qualified to be sold at vendor markets should be able to be sold on a company's online store and shipped. Same labeling required for other methods of getting them to the public along with info provided in their online store.

Cissy Abernathy
Self / school administrator
Longview, TX

I have a friend who is a cottage food baker and this would greatly help her!!

Mary Darby
self
Longview, TX

This bill would really help my good friend who is a cottage food baker.

Everett Houston, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote for SB 829.
It's a well thought out bill.
Thanks
Everett Houston

Karina Calderon
Self, Professional Pastry Chef
Georgetown, TX

I have a young family of 3 littles that will not be old enough for school for another few years. (And everyone knows childcare is just you working to cover the tuition and not having anything left to cover bills). I closed my former business that operated out of a commercial kitchen with all the proper permits to now having a new business--a cottage law bakery so I can take care of my babies while also being able to make a living. Lifts some of the restrictions, even just one, would make all the difference in the world to cottage law bakers. For example: I had to operate out of a commercial kitchen and got the permits necessary to wholesale my baked goods to coffee shops, these baked goods were basic non temperature controlled products like jelly filled hand pies that are normally allowed to be made and sold by a cottage baker.

Virginia Northcutt
Self
Longview, TX

I have a friend who has a cottage business. This bill would support her and others who are following the law and benefit Texas in general. Please consider passing this.

David Houston
Self
Longview, TX

Cottage food bakers need the opportunity to sell their goods and products as widely and easily as possible. Not everyone has the capacity to invest in brick and mortar facilities. Many small business men and women need the ability to produce and sell from home. Small business is the backbone of our economy. This bill will help those who are only able to work from home support their families and produce products that are needed in the marketplace. Please support this bill!

Luis Gutierrez
Self
Brownsville, TX

Dear Representatives, as a Cottage Food Producer please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I am a Cottage Food Producer who wants to grow into a proper small business and SB 829 gives us that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits our reach to what I can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes all the cakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help us go higher, further, faster.

In today's economic environment, the only way my business can afford to hire help and sign a commercial kitchen lease is by working together with other local entrepreneurs instead of alone, which is why SB 829 is critical for every micro entrepreneur who is serious about contributing to our economy in a more impactful manner. My business specializes in mini cakes baked fresh daily, with balanced flavors that are not overly sweet, and with your support should SB 829 become law, it would be a game-changer for me and every hard working Texan that's cooking and baking from home to build a better tomorrow rather than waiting for hand me downs by the government.

Please help us support SB 829 so we can grow our Texas small businesses and create new jobs by allowing us to work together instead of alone. Thank you for everything you do for our great State, God bless you and God bless Texas.

Twala Lockhart
Self / Registered Nurse
Houston, TX

Please approve SB 829. I am a cottage food baker and due to the current cottage food regulations, I feel limited in the items I am able to offer my customers. Myself and other cottage food bakers take the same food handler's certification to insure safe practices. I've also obtained liability insurance just like store front bakeries. I feel that we should also have the same liberties in our product offerings that store front owners have.

Suzy Stewart
Self
North Zulch, TX

I support this bill. This is a much needed change that needs to happen for our cottage bakers and producers.

Kelly Bhatt
Self
LINDALE, TX

I support this bill. I am a small farmer as well as a caregiver for my mother. I do not have time to go to farmers market every week to sell products. Being able to sell at a local co-op would open a whole new world to me and my family. We appreciate you writing this bill and trying to help small producers like us and keeping regulations and health departments to the minimum.

Lanie Lenhart, Mrs.
SB 829
Longview, TX

This would really help one of my best friends and her wonderful cake business!!!! Please consider!!!

Erin Gomez
Solana Farms
Buda, TX

Support cottage foods!

Susan Ward, Ms
Self
Longview, TX

Supporting our Texas cottage bakers. Thank you!

Bethany Reynolds
Self
Kilgore, TX

Please pass SB 829. As a Texas small business owner it is frustrating to me that big corporations get breaks, but we, small business owners, must scratch and claw through miles of red tape.

SB 829 would allow me to sell my products in local stores which would allow exponential growth for my business.

I urge you to Pass SB 829.

Michele Pipgrass
Self home baker
Magnolia, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB829. The limitations placed on cottage bakers need revision and this bill needs legislative support to make that happen. Allowing cottage bakers the opportunity to provide a greater variety of foods will increase the business opportunities for 100s of bakers in Texas. This will in turn filter money back into the local economy and help small home-based businesses to support their communities. Please do all you can to say YES to SB829!!

Suzanne Birch
Cottage Kitchen Owner / Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support this bill. I have a Cottage Kitchen and support each point.

Jay Crossley
Farm&City
Austin, TX

I strongly support SB 829. Please vote yes.

While I live in Austin and work on public policy issues in my day job with a nonprofit organization, our family land is in Austin County, where my parents live and my wife and I started out our married life trying to develop a small, sustainable vegetable and herb operation. We built our first home there and tried for four years to build this farm business while I continued to work full time as a nonprofit professional.

We quickly learned that selling vegetables and herbs directly at farmers' markets is difficult business with very little room for making any money. For a long time, I have made hot sauce, salsa, and spicy salts for our friends and family, so we tried to branch out into selling vegetables, herbs, and value-added products which had recently been made a legal option by the first Texas Cottage Foods law.

We took the training, developed record keeping and labeling, and started selling spicy salts along with vegetables. This allowed us to branch out beyond normal farmers' markets to have a booth at places like the Kerrville Folk Festival. However, under that law, we could not sell the things that all my friends and family ask for when I see them: the hot sauce.

We found that we could not continue to justify providing fresh vegetables and herbs to Houston and Austin markets with the income that we could make and gave up on building our farm business in 2016. Instead, I have remained working full time in my nonprofit jobs and my wife has returned to working in childcare.

My dream remains rebuilding our little farm business and being able to work professionally half time and spend the other half of my time on the land and giving people tasty local, sustainable food. I believe that this bill makes that option possible for my family.

Thanks,
Jay

Cindy Meredith
Self- Retired
Hallettsville, TX

Allowing Cottage Food Makers to sell to retailers gives more people access to wholesome, homemade products. Food problems rarely are found in small batch kitchens, but in large, industrial food preparation. This would be a boon for farmers and other makers who would benefit from the additional income.

Elizabeth Shirey
Self, Cottage Bakery Owner
Grand Prairie, TX

This bill personally relates to my family. I sell baked goods and freeze dried fruits with a multiple purpose. Firstly, I use my income to buy safe foods for my severe allergy child. She has food and chemical allergies and needs incredibly expensive foods to live. Every event I do is earmarked for a special safe food.

In addition to this, I serve the allergy community by making treats they normall can't find other places. Being able to wholesale at local coffee shops, for example, would open up a new option for others. Just being able to have a location to hang with friends and purchase a truly gluten/dairy/soy/sesame/nut/dye free cake is a nearly unheard of thing. This is something I offer my customers, but they have to purchase from the farmers market only on Saturdays right now.

This bill means so much to not only my family, but to my many local customers, who want to live normal lives but are so limited on food options. It's more than a job to me. It's the livelihood of my entire family.

Adriana Andablo
Self, cottage baker
Mineola, TX

This would help me improve economically in a result of being able to provide for my children financially with more sales.

Nicolasa Murillo
Self
Terrell, TX

The cost of living has risen dramatically and cottage law needs to reflect this. We drastically need the! income range to be raised to \$100,000 to help small farmers meet the need of helping feed the community. This money will go towards maintaining farmland and our heritage through cottage foods that are and should be a right to every citizen. Everything is more expensive and we need this. Also it should be optional to put the address on food labels because these are private residential homes and many people understand that cottage businesses have cash on hand and it puts us at risk.

Kynda Knight
Self, Cottage Baker
Burleson, TX

By expanding the limits of cottage bakers, you're allowing bakers and makers more freedoms to support themselves and their families. I'd also like to see regulations lifted or amended to allow shipping through online sales, even if that solely within state lines. Being able to bake from home allows me to support my child and home with flexibility in my schedule. I hate having to turn paying customers away because, by law, I currently am unable to offer refrigerated goods for sale.

Brian Crabtree
self
Liverpool, TX

I request support for this bill giving support for business creation through cottage food production. As a long time participant in farmers markets and small farm vegetable production, i have seen how people have been able to create going businesses after getting a start in production and sales of home produced foods. Local shoppers generally want to buy local and try new products offered by local producers in their community. Cottage food participants experiment with new offerings that may grow into a business and employer. I have seen it happen over time and this bill may give some support and remove some barriers to cottage production. There should be few concerns for safety of cottage foods since the home producer has the greatest incentive for purity of the product, that is the requirement that the customer will always be satisfied. Thank you, Brian Crabtree

Lacey Navarro, Cottage Baker
Self - Cottage Baker
Tyler, TX

Please consider the updates to the cottage food laws. Many Texans operate out of their home while caring for their children and homesteads. The opportunity to reach their full potential while staying at home would be such a blessing. God bless.

Jennifer Pedersen
Self
Dallas, TX

Raising the revenue cap would allow me to produce at a volume that would help support my family without my having to claim disability due to a disease that can leave me housebound. It would also allow my family more spending to support or local economy.

Kristell Arianne Abbate
Self
Georgetown, TX

This bill will improve the livelihood of myself and thousands of other cottage food producers in Texas. It will open up a vast number of opportunities, allowing us to expand on our production. Under the right circumstances, this bill will only bring positive change for us!

Caroline Phillips
Self part time baker
Plano, TX

We would benefit from this by being able to make more of a living off of our business and make it not just part time.

Raymond Jackson
7 J Farms
Crosby, TX

I am writing today in support of SB 829. The updates that SB 829 would equip the current Cottage Food Laws with would benefit many Texans to include myself an family. We all take pride in our crafts and ability to grow and manufacture food sources and consumable items. However, we face a mounting challenge with being able to get our food items into the hands of more consumers therefore stunting the possible growth of our business. This bill would allow us to branch out in a wholesale market without having to deal with somewhat overreaching health departments and officials who at times seem bothered with our crafts. This ability to reach more consumers would allow for more income and in return more taxes back into tax revenue This bill will also alleviate the sometimes continuous harassments of city/county officials and those uneducated with Cottage Food Production in trying to require purchasing of permits and/or preventing producers from selling their goods. Although this bill does not address all the concerns of all Cottage Food producers it does allow for our business to grow, allowing families to provide better incomes. I served this country and the State of Texas as a military member for over 27 years and now serve our community as a teacher. Please allow us to truly pursue a livelihood I believed my service was preserving. Thank you for your support.

Kristy Poole
Self, home baker
Angleton, TX

Please make it easier for those who are home bakers trying to help support their families income.

Kevin Howard
Self
Dallas, TX

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you as a concerned citizen, keenly invested in public health and safety matters, regarding the recently proposed bill that seeks to allow time and temperature-controlled foods to be sold under the cottage food exemption. While I understand the intent behind this bill to promote local and small businesses, I strongly believe that this legislation could inadvertently jeopardize the public health and safety we are all committed to protecting.

Time and temperature-controlled for safety (TCS) foods are specifically regulated due to their propensity to harbor harmful bacteria and other pathogens if not properly handled. These foods require careful temperature control and other safety measures during storage, preparation, and transport to ensure they are safe to consume.

The cottage food exemption was designed for low-risk foods, which typically do not require refrigeration and have a lower potential for causing foodborne illnesses. By extending this exemption to include TCS foods, we risk compromising the stringent safety measures currently in place.

Without the necessary oversight provided by health and safety inspections, we expose consumers to potential hazards such as foodborne illnesses that can arise from mishandling or incorrect storage of these TCS foods. Small operations might not have the resources or knowledge to adequately control these risks, increasing the potential for public health incidents.

The cost of managing foodborne disease outbreaks—both in terms of human health and economic impacts—can be significant. It is, therefore, paramount that we prioritize preventative measures, including maintaining robust food safety standards and oversight, to mitigate these risks.

I urge you to consider the potential consequences this bill could have on public health and safety. Instead, I propose that we explore other avenues to support small businesses and local producers, such as increased funding for food safety education or subsidies for necessary safety equipment, which can both encourage entrepreneurship and protect consumers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Howard, REHS/RS

María Balderas de Chavez, Mrs
Self/home baker
Spring, TX

I am in favor of SB-829

Kaylee Liggett
Self- home baker
League city, TX

Removing the refrigerated goods laws would be tremendous for my business and many others, as well as selling wholesale to shops. I have many coffee shops and boutiques that ask for my items all the time and I have to decline. I want Texas to be one of the few states that actually supports their cottage bakers instead of limiting us.

Jeanne Ybarra
Self
Wimberley, TX

Please vote for this because I am in a tiny town and would like to sell cakes and bread to a small group of fiends in town. I even make homemade jam and tamales that would be a nice way to make a little extra money for myself.

Chris Ybarra
Self
Wimberley, TX

This would allow my wife to make baked goods and jellies to sell to her friends within our small community without needing all the paperwork. Thank you.

Rebecca Sansing
Self - cottage bakery since 2018
Bay City, TX

As a cottage bakery, this bill will greatly benefit my business and thus my family.

By increasing the sales cap, I will have the opportunity to turn this hobby into a living wage. Adding refrigerated foods like cheesecakes will allow me as a food handler certified cottage baker to fulfill my customers' requests for things like cheesecakes and pumpkin pies. Currently I turn these types of orders away and they go to the lady up the street who makes them despite the law prohibiting it. Adding wholesale cottage foods will allow me to expand my business and get close to the new income cap, again helping my family of 6 survive in this tough economy while doing something I love and bringing smiles to more people's faces with my baked goods. This will also allow me to take my product to markets without fear of uneducated cities and health departments bullying me as a cottage baker.

Please pass this bill - it's the right thing to do!

Kathy Denison, Mrs.
Self. Retired
Bastrop, TX

I support this Bill, improving access to local homemade foods is very important to me and to our local businesses.

Susannah Abernathy
Neighbor that is cottage food baker
Longview, TX

This is a great bill for Texas Cottage Bakers!!

Amelia Abernathy
Self speech language pathologist
Dallas, TX

My neighbor is a cottage food baker and it would really help her business! Great idea!

Logan Abernathy, Mr.
Self: Insurance
Dallas, TX

This would really help out my neighbor that is a cottage baker. Great bill Senator K and go frogs!

Jade Holder
Self
Brenham, TX

The passing of this bill would allow me as a cottage baker to grow in necessary avenues to provide for my family and and the community.

Bo Powers
Friend
Longview, TX

I think this bill is great for Cottage bakers

Kirk Henderson
Cottage Food Bakers
Longview, TX

I support SB 829 as this would greatly help the Texas Cottage bakers. Please support this bill for Texas

Amber England
Self
El Campo, TX

Its beyond time to make these allowances for cottage bakers.

Marsha Bujnoch
Self
Houston, TX

It is necessary for individuals to be able to provide food products from their homes. The economy is imploding. People need jobs and consumers need food products. For too long, we have had large grocery chains and processed foods. If my neighbor wants to bake some bread or make a candle and sell it to me, so be it. Food freedom is imperative and should be encouraged on every level. We should all be growing gardens too. Please pass this Bill!

Cappucine Northcutt
Self
Longview, TX

I am in support of the Bill. I have a friend in the cottage food industry and these changes will positively affect her business and allow it to grow.

Bianca Hill
Self
Humble, TX

This bill would really be beneficial to me because it would help expand my business. I would love to sell my cheesecakes. Also I feel It would be safer to not have your address blasted for everyone to see

Harold Needham
Inspectirs choice
Lubbock, TX

This business inspectors choice Re awesome people there r hard wirking trying to make a living they are active in area where they live i hope yall will pass this for the sake of all

Cheri Hartman
Myself
Cedar Creek, TX

Please support Texas small businesses with this bill. The more successful the people, the more successful the state.

Tammie Mason
Self
Centerville, TX

In a very rural community, the amendments to cottage baking are very important for a number of reasons. Number 1, it would give our young population who may not have the knowledge of how to bake or our elderly whom may not cook for themselves an option to be able to buy more consumable products such as refrigerated baked goods without driving distances. Elderly don't always have transportation or if they do maybe they shouldn't be driving distances to purchase consumables. Number 2, in todays world it has become increasingly more dangerous to have cottage bakers' home address published for any/everyone who purchases a baked good to have. Most cottage bakers meet their customers away from their personal space to minimize a potential bad situation. People are not always sweet as sugar. There are women who have been raped just trying to sell a few cookies. Number 3, allowing wholesale with a contract for cottage goods could only be a positive in my personal opinion. It would allow our rural area to be able to offer more variety of consumable goods in our convenient stores or local businesses. Thank you for your consideration and time.
Tammie Mason

Marjie Caldwell, Miss
Self
Dallas, TX

Support this bill. Farmers Markets and food vendors that bring fresh produce and those that make fresh food and bakery items to sell help everyone.

Heather Hill
Texas Cottage Bakers
Longview, TX

This bill is great for Texas Cottage bakers!!

Jordan Griebner
Montrose Macarons
Houston, TX

As a cottage food baker, this would be so beneficial for my business. Allowing wholesale could mean providing macarons to coffee shops and the like. I would also feel safer knowing my whole address was not required on labeling. Please consider this bill as a major game-changer for cottage food bakers!

Maria Cristina Baldwin
Self, cottage baker
San Antonio, TX

!

Virginia Carter, Dr.
Self
Baytown, TX

This bill would be so beneficial!!! As a cottage baker, I do not feel safe being required to put my HOME address on ALL packaging. How would you feel as a single female just putting your address out there for everyone? How about your Granny who just wants to make a little extra to spoil her grandkids??? Registering your address just makes SO much more sense! And being able to add certain refrigerated items would be so beneficial to the community. People are already selling those items anyways, yet to the people who follow the rules it is like they are being penalized. Please lend your support to this sensible bill!!!

Mayra Cruz
Self
Brownsville, TX

Dear Representatives, as a supporter of Cottage Food Producers please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I have friends who are Cottage Food Producers that want to grow into a proper small business, and SB 829 gives them that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits their reach to what they can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help them go higher, further, faster.

In today's economic environment, the only way some businesses can afford to hire help and sign a commercial kitchen lease is by working together with other local entrepreneurs instead of alone, which is why SB 829 is critical for every micro entrepreneur who is serious about contributing to our economy in a more impactful manner. With your support, should SB 829 become law, it would be a game-changer for my friends and every hard working Texan that's cooking and baking from home to build a better tomorrow rather than waiting for hand me downs by the government.

Please help us support SB 829 so we can grow our Texas small businesses and create new jobs by allowing them to work together instead of alone. Thank you for everything you do for our great State, God bless you and God bless Texas.

Ryan Santa Ana
Self
Brownsville, TX

Dear Representatives, as a supporter of Cottage Food Producers please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I have friends who are Cottage Food Producers that want to grow into a proper small business, and SB 829 gives them that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits their reach to what they can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help them go higher, further, faster.

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Brittany Muniz
Self- home Baker
Austin, TX

I would just like to say how this change would help me and my family! I am a stay at home mom of 3 children. One of my children is disabled, and medically fragile. She has a tracheostomy and a host of other issues. I can not work outside the home because the very large nurse shortage leaves me no help with her. Not complaining...I love being home with my babies!! But having the ability to make baked goods and whole sale them would allow me to still be home and bring in a better income to help my family, also raising the income limit is extremely helpful as life has just been very expensive. Being able too make refrigerated items would also widen my customer base. Thank you for taking the time to read this comment!

Christine Sakwitz
self, contract grant writer
Houston, TX

This bill will provide countless new opportunities for local entrepreneurs - on behalf of my friends who are trying to run a small business as bakers, I'm asking you to vote in favor of SB 829 and improve our Texas Cottage Industry Food Laws. Thank you!

Candace Marshall
Self
Plantersville, TX

I would like to have more access to more homemade foods, but the people I know aren't able to sell to co-ops or even 3rd party vendors. I just don't understand why Texas is trying to limit what these people are doing, by even capping their income at \$50K, where FL has a cap of \$250K. What is the state legislature trying to do to Texans, when they claim to work for and represent their constituents? What is going on?

Colleen Blevins
self
Austin, TX

As a constituent and avid consumer of cottage food products I encourage the passage of Bill SB 829 that will grant small producers and grocers the right to conduct legal business transactions that benefit my family and many other local citizens. We need this bill and want this bill approved!

Peggy Higgins
Self/home baker
Caldwell, TX

This bill is very important to all home bakers who want to continue to grow their small businesses. I cannot tell you how often I'm asked about cheesecake or pumpkin pies. And people don't completely understand why it's okay at the grocery store but not home. Home bakers have proven they take necessary precautions to ensure a well made and safe product. The address being removed from the label requirements is an awesome idea to protect home bakers. Please see this bill through to calendars and the floor. We appreciate all efforts made on the part of home bakers and allowing them to continue to move forward taking care of business at home as well as. Haines in the home. Less kids in day care, Moms with time to participate in their children's lives.

Melissa Rogers
Self
Killeen, TX

Removing addresses from labels is great, especially if selling at a market and there is an issue with a customer, this will protect bakers from getting unwanted visits from disgruntled customers. Being allowed to sell pumpkin pies and cheesecake, especially at holiday time, will be a huge boost to bakers for the holidays

Deborah Starghill, Co-Owner
Choice of Kindness Catering and Events
Houston, TX

I am a small business owner and I am in support of SB829. I request that you pass this bill for the benefit of all small business owners!!

Tanya Mancillas
Self
McAllen, TX

Dear Representatives, as a supporter of Cottage Food Producers please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I have friends who are Cottage Food Producers that want to grow into a proper small business, and SB 829 gives them that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits their reach to what they can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help them go higher, further, faster.

In today's economic environment, the only way some businesses can afford to hire help and sign a commercial kitchen lease is by working together with other local entrepreneurs instead of alone, which is why SB 829 is critical for every micro entrepreneur who is serious about contributing to our economy in a more impactful manner. With your support, should SB 829 become law, it would be a game-changer for my friends and every hard working Texan that's cooking and baking from home to build a better tomorrow.

Please help us support SB 829 so we can grow our Texas small businesses and create new jobs by allowing them to work together instead of alone. Thank you for everything you do for our great State, God bless you and God bless Texas.

Shanise Chavez
Shanise Cakes Bakery Studio
Houston, TX

We need this to be approved to be able to support our families and customers with what they like when it comes to cold baked goods and custards. This is my business and supports my family.

Mary Verock Verock
We Be JAM'N
New Braunfels, TX

My daughter-in-law and I started a artisan jam and jelly business 7 years ago. We have worked so hard to perfect our products, under the Texas Cottage food law. We have always enjoyed working together and building our customer base. We attended many markets in the last 7 years, but this bill would so help us expand our business! When I lost my husband in 2020, our business kept me going, both financially and emotionally. Please consider the bill before you and know there are so many people, like me, that depends on our Cottage business to enrich our lives. Thank you for your consideration and hard work helping Texans succeed. God bless

Mary E. Verock
We Be JAM'N ??

Lloyd E Dodd III, Mr
Self
Granbury, TX

These are reasonable adjustments to the law that will help cottage businesses.

Kathy Frisch

self - independent consultant to small farmers and ranchers

Plano, TX

I am very much in support of SB829 to improve access to local homemade foods from small farms and cottage food producers. Current laws still limit farmers and small businesses from having a profitable enterprise. Not only do I want access to these foods for myself, I also work with numerous small family farms who depend on the 'value-added' income from cottage food products that increase the value of the foods they grow, preserve the foods to prevent waste and provide opportunity for off-season income. SB 829, by allowing these small farms/businesses to sell directly to co-ops or small, local grocery stores, will improve their ability to have a profitable business, while also helping the local economy. Another problem that some small farmers have faced is scare tactics and threats from over-zealous health officials. These small family farms and local food producers need our support, encouragement and business, not this kind of harassment. Please pass SB 829!

Lettz Loreda, HR Manager

Hadas Sweets

Buda, TX

Giving cottage business owners more options opens the door for communities to stick together. it helps us keep cash flow in our community and not to venture to other states.

Sharon Johnson

Piney woods Cottage

Goodrich, TX

I have some. Rey good descent local people that sell fresh to the public at all heir farm stand and local markets. They grow vegetables, make jams & jellies and she bakes all kinds of home baked goods like breads, cinnamon rolls, pies, etc. If this bill passes, I believe it would give them additional opportunities to increase their business!

Katie Schmitt

Self, homemaker

Houston, TX

This bill would be such a good thing for entrepreneurs and small businesses. Moms who stay home with their children but can bake and make extra money by wholesaling would actually have the ability to change their lives and those of their families. Removing extraneous government requirements that limit communities selling goods to one another (and therefore taking money farther outside of local communities) would do nothing but benefit individuals. Instead of supporting large corporations like Walmart, it will be easier for people to support local bakers and businesses. Please vote yes for this bill and remove barriers to people supporting themselves.

Gabriela Lopez
Self
Spring, TX

Dear Representatives, as a supporter of Cottage Food Producers please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I have friends who are Cottage Food Producers that want to grow into a proper small business, and SB 829 gives them that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits their reach to what they can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help them go higher, further, faster.

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Please help us support SB 829 so we can grow our Texas small businesses and create new jobs by allowing them to work together instead of alone. Thank you for everything you do for our great State, God bless you and God bless Texas.

Marian Castaneda
Self retired
Italy, TX

Please pass this bill

Marlene Williams
Small Business
Austin, TX

I rely on home businesses to help me in my business and I like to order home-baked goods, like cookies and cheesecakes for my parties.

My friend, who owns Jada's Sweets, needs to be able to expand her business.

Please consider passing this bill. It will benefit so many home industries.

Jeanette Lule
Self homebaker
McKinney, TX

This bill would be very beneficial for all the Texas cottage bakers. We are already limited in what we can offer and how much money we can bring in. With this bill, home-bakers would be able to expand their income by selling wholesale. Home-bakers would be able to provide more products to their customers like cheesecakes, tiramisu, custards, etc.

Gordon Walton
self
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill, as a former small food producer. Texans want and deserve more locally produced food and this bill would definitely help this. Thanks!

Freddie Paredes
self/paralegal
McKinney, TX

I think this bill will help increase competition in local markets as well as helping people who choose to create a product from there home, versus taking on a large rent/lease agreement, and help increase the amount of things customers can be offered and get from cottage bakeries. I support this bill.

Marcel Elizondo
Self, Public Health professional
Pflugerville, TX

The proposed legislation would allow baked goods that are time and temperature-controlled foods to be sold under the cottage foods exemption. Time/temperature controlled foods are regulated for a reason. Texas residents and Texas businesses lose significant amounts of time and money due to foodborne illnesses. Nationally, > 9 million people become ill due to foodborne illness that may lead to hospitalizations or worse (Attribution of Foodborne Illnesses, Hospitalizations, and Deaths to Food Commodities by using Outbreak Data, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Volume 19, Number 3—March 2013). Allowing the sale of cottage foods to be sold in food service establishments and retail food stores eliminates the food safety oversight that local and state public health agencies provide. Are proper food temperatures being monitored? What about proper handwashing? Many of these health and safety hazards can be minimized in commercial kitchens with adequate facilities. The previous changes the bill author made to the bill to address concerns raised by TEHA, such as removing the requirement that the address of production be included on cottage food labels absent some kind of producer database, is appreciated. We remain concerned that the bill would dramatically expand the scope of Texas cottage food laws in a way that jeopardizes public health for all Texas residents.

Other impacts may include but are not limited to: negatively impacting small business owners with razor-thin profits working in a properly outfitted commercial kitchen, foodborne illness tracking by epidemiologists, and residents that become ill and do not have adequate health insurance.

The current cottage food rules previously eliminated food handling oversight. To further reduce food safety protections is a direction that Texas should avoid.

Donald Brouillet
Self & our small family farm "Madison Lane Farms"
The Woodlands, TX

I strongly support SB829 and ask that you do the same. Cottage foods represent a huge opportunity for Texas consumers to obtain high quality food, produced locally, at reasonable prices. However, the current restrictions require consumers to visit farms or farmers markets in order to obtain cottage foods. SB829 provides an important additional channel for consumers to obtain these goods and also helps small farmers, like me and my family, to grow our businesses and support the local economy. This bill is a great step for Texas, please support it.

Denisa Bundick
Home bakers
Angleton, TX

This bill would help out home bakers immensely!
Your consideration in passing this bill would be greatly appreciated

Jennifer Robinson
Self - home baker
Flower Mound, TX

Please vote in favor of SB 829. As a small business owner I moved to Texas two years ago drawn by the opportunity to provide for my family under the laws provided by this great state. Please vote YES!

Desireé Hynum
Self
Angleton, TX

Safety for these individuals is important. Please consider this bill for all reasons!

Dennis Thayer
Self, Registered Sanitarian
WINDCREST, TX

This bill expressly prevents any health authority from investigating a cottage food producer who operates under insanitary and unsafe conditions, and in effect turns back even the minimal public health protections first set out by the United States in the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. I suggest that the legislators of Texas read *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair and imagine the food production conditions described there writ small, as a well meaning but basically untrained cottage food producer's cat strolls past the cream filled eclairs they just made to sell at their local elementary school. And then remember that not only can the local health department NOT investigate that cottage food producer, but anyone there who tries can be summarily fired. This bill is shockingly dangerous and should be voted down.

Sabrina Vidaurri
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a citizen who enjoys eating food I want to know the food I purchase is made from a facility that is inspected for health violations. This bill will put food in restaurants that people will assume is inspected and is not. Every food manufacturer, either a grower to plant down to restaurants, should be inspected regularly by non biased government inspection programs.

This bill seems to put business over people safety How will this bill keep citizens from food borne illnesses? How will this bill help a person track where their food was made and have an investigation done if they do become ill from one of these products?

I am against this bill

Tom Vyles
Self Environmental Health Professional
PLANO, TX

Allowing foods that are time and temperature controlled for safety (TCS) to be made at home and sold at retail would put Texas directly at odds with Federal Regulations.
Requiring a registration process for health departments to track Cottage Food wholesalers apparently without being able to charge a fee adds a time consuming process to already stressed departments.
Permitting cottage food to be sold at retail puts the greatest risk on people in disadvantaged neighborhoods. It will be small independent stores who are most likely to sell this product and these stores are disproportionally in disadvantaged neighborhoods. The people living near and shopping in these stores will be placed at higher risk for food borne illnesses from improperly prepared or handled foods.

Lauren Jones
Self
Angleton, TX

In favor of SB 829.

Cheryl Miller
self
Victoria, TX

I encourage the passing of SB 829. As an entrepreneur and cottage industry business, it would be beneficial to be able to sell directly to co-ops or mom-and-pop grocers. As an older person, supplementing my social security with my small business is important. Please consider all the small businesses in our state that need the opportunity to generate income to stay afloat.

Brittany Weiher
Cottage bakers
San Antonio, TX

Making home addresses optional, this is dangerous for anyone at the home
Adding refrigerated baked goods (cheesecake, curd)
Capping sales at 100,000 instead of 50,000.

Heidi Schrowang
Sweet Lizzie's Bakery
Marble Falls, TX

This would help my bother and his wife as they have a daughter who has extreme allergies and relays on the bakery income for safe food.

Sarah Krueger
Heartful Art Cookie Company
Dallas, TX

This would be so beneficial, especially if included that I could ship my cookies. I make cookies for a boutique store that serves (not sells) my cookies at their shopping events. They would like me to ship my cookies to their other stores for events, but I can not under cottage food laws. I've looked into renting a commercial kitchen and getting the proper licensing but given the time needed to decorate and dry sugar cookies it would not be cost effective. The ability to ship sugar cookie would be so helpful.

Cheri Walleck
self
Port Lavaca, TX

I believe that the cottage food industry in Texas is important in providing healthy alternatives to the mass produced foods filled with preservatives and additives not included in locally produced products. They taste fresher/better and provide local healthy sources and alternatives for underserved communities. Many provide food stuffs in a much healthier and more sustainable way than large market producers. Too many regulations makes it hard for small producers to compete when they are hindered by regulations and fees and unnecessary costs to bring their products to market. I say the less regulations imposed the better. Less regulations, more liberty.

Linda Miller
Blondie's Cakery Dallas
Sachse, TX

This bill would really help a lot of small businesses trying to allow people to follow their passion. It requires a lot of work and time for little profit. Please let's all support this bill!!

Julie Prouse
self
BRYAN, TX

I feel modifying the existing cottage food law and allowing baked goods that are TCS foods could jeopardize public health. I also feel it would not be fair financially to commercial/retail businesses who must follow more stringent rules and regulation, as well as an added cost, for selling similar products in food service establishments and retail food stores. If cottage food businesses want to sell these type products to entities there needs to be more food safety training, better traceability in case of an issue, and an allowability of observing the conditions of the facility/residence the product was produced in to satisfy safety concerns.

Vivonne Rodriguez
Self - Owner of a cottage food home business
Frisco, TX

I would first like to say thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. I just started a small cottage food business in 2022. Both my husband and I have medical issues. Because of health issues, it is difficult for me to work outside the home. Being able to have a small home business to generate additional income means a lot to us. We are grateful for the opportunity. However, due to inflation, raising the current revenue cap from \$50,000 to \$100,000 will go a long way toward securing my financial future and retirement. Raising the cap will also allow me to continue my business at home as our revenue increases. Thanks again for your time. I look forward to the passage of this bill.

Michael McMonagle

Self - Cottage Based Business Owner - Sugar Land Spice Company

Sugar Land, TX

I would like to request the Public Health Committee's passage of SB 829. This bill will provide needed revisions to the existing Cottage Food Laws that will assist us in providing additional choices in local foods sold to consumers, and greater opportunities for Cottage Food Businesses to grow their businesses and seek out new markets for their products. Many Cottage Food Business owners, myself included, have the dream of transitioning from a home based business into a full commercial enterprise, with either a 'brick and mortar' store, or selling products through existing retail channels. This SB 829 moves these dreams closer to realities by increasing the sales cap and allowing wholesale selling into retail channels. This increases potential tax revenues for the state, and greater food choices for Texas consumers. It also offers owners the personal and privacy protections of being able to remove our personal address information from labeling by registering with the DSHS. And though I am not a baker, the addition of refrigerated baked goods to the allowed foods lists would be a major step forward to those that are bakers.

Texas prides itself on its independence, entrepreneurial spirit, and business-friendly climate. Cottage Based Businesses are a reflection of this, a growing contributor to the local small business community, and deserve 'better bootstraps' to move ourselves forward on our path to success. I thank you for time in reading these comments, and look forward to your support in moving this bill forward into law.

Caryn Scott, Food Inspection Manager

City of Sugar Land - Environmental & Neighborhood Services

Sugar Land, TX

The current DSHS Cottage Food Law explains, "A cottage food production may not sell to customers potentially hazardous foods (PHF). A PHF is a food that requires time and temperature control for safety (TCS) to limit pathogen growth or toxin production." By revising the current guidelines to meet an aspiration rather than a necessity, it creates a bigger problem and higher risk of Foodborne Illnesses throughout the State. This shouldn't be a risk that the State of Texas should want to take, for the reason that homes are not being inspected because there are no TCS foods involved, are low-risk foods, and do not require deliberate monitoring due to the minimal requirements & restrictions set forth by DSHS--that each Cottage Food operator must presently follow. By suggesting that "baked TCS" foods are introduced into cottage food operations, is simply stating or imposing a required food permit and/or inspection by the regulatory authority. At this time, most jurisdictions do not have the work force to enlist this type of additional permitting or inspection; hence one of the supporting reasons why the State cottage food law was originated; to simply act as a guide to operators, rather than to permit or inspect. To include, if we authorize cottage food operators to sell baked TCS foods to retail food establishments, this limits the traceability if they are the actual source of a foodborne illness, as again this would require a permit/inspection with the regulatory authority to execute this sort of police power. Furthermore, this bill negatively encourages cottage food operators to further expand outside of the boundaries of just "baked TCS" foods; that would indefinitely require a food permit, inspection, and additional regulations to be implemented --to reduce the spread of foodborne illnesses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that the 5 major risk factors of foodborne illnesses are (1) Food from unsafe sources, (2) Poor personal hygiene and ill food workers, (3) Inadequate cooking temperatures, (4) Improper holding temperatures and cooling procedures, and (5) Cross contamination and contaminated equipment. With the potential expansion of baked TCS foods that includes retail food sales, it dramatically increases the dangers of these five risk factors. We are asking that the Cottage Food Law remain as is, unchanged due to the existing attainment of the program. It is also our hope that you will honor this request.

Respectfully,

Caryn A. Scott, R.S, CP-FS

Chouaib Aberkane
All in One
Tomball, TX

This is one of those times where we ask to let the farmers make additional income to overcome all the difficulties any small farmer faces in Texas. It is very difficult to stand out with all the competition from big corporations who control the market for the food that is served at our tables at home. The more possibilities farmers are given the more they will be able to make the local food affordable to every family in Texas.

Kim Sims
Self- Cottage Food Business Owner
Spring, TX

I am in favor of this bill being passed.
I own a cottage bakery business and I love what I do. I can create art that benefits the community and brings joy to others. I would like the opportunity to make a livable income with my passion. This bill favors the small business owner in making our production more successful and helping our families in the process.
Making home addresses optional would make me feel safer selling my goods at Farmers markets and other pop-up events. It would also benefit my business and the community to be able to sell my treats wholesale to my husband's coffee shop, so we can help keep some of our products locally made.
Overall, cottage food business are becoming more popular, and our communities love shopping and supporting local businesses. I thank you for your consideration and your time.

Christian Keith
Self Firefighter
Forney, TX

I fully support this bill. The current cottage food laws are very crippling.

Jennifer Chaffin
Good Kind Bakery/ self, Cottage Food Baker
Scurry, TX

Please vote for this bill to be passed! I got into the Cottage Food business just over a year ago and would have so much more opportunity to sell my baked goods if I could offer a wider variety of treats. I am currently not able to sell cheesecake or certain pies. I would also love the opportunity to sell to wholesalers rather than only to individuals.

Maria Lule
Self
McKinney, TX

I support that home bakers be able to sell the delicious pastries as wholesale in their events.

Tiffany Baugh
Dragonfly Ranch
Groves, TX

We need freedom in our households and believe our kitchen should not be governed

Laurie Ziminski
Self - baker!
Lott, TX

This would be a huge encouragement to entrepreneurs like myself! Specifically the increase in sales amount to \$100k per year. There has been crazy inflation since 2021, which eats into an already small profit, so increasing the sales cap to 100k would give me a more liveable wage. Thank you!

Deborah Michaels
Self/baker
Corpus Christi, TX

I am definately against giving my exact address to strangers.

Michelle Word
Unbelievably Gluten Free, Cottage Baker
North Richland Hills, TX

I'm a new cottage baker with big dreams of one day owning my own store front, but in the meantime, I'm a cottage baker. During the first few years of any small business, there's little to no profit because everything is reinvested into your business. Passing SB 829 would allow more options for me as a cottage baker and for my customers. The most noteworthy for me being the ability to add some time and temperature controlled foods AND being able to sell to a retailer. Please give this bill your full support to create more opportunities for small businesses such as mine. Thank you for your consideration.

Maiah Miller
Liberty Hill Bakery
Liberty Hill, TX

Small bakeries mile mine can barely make a profit when required to rent a commercial kitchen to produce baked goods for wholesale. This would be extremely beneficial to home bakers looking to grow their business!

Victoria Brumley, Miss
Sweeten my day bakery and catering service
Victoria, TX

I am currently producing food under the cottage food law and it is very difficult to sell to customers even for catering because a lot of them want products I am not legally allowed to sell them. I also have been wanting to go wholesale for a while, as a single mom with a disabled 4 year old, and 2 year old it is very expensive and tedious to get a whole sale license in my state. This business is how I am trying to support my family since my kids cannot be given care in a daycare or a group home. So in order for my family to survive, I must work from home and I bake and raise vegetables to sell to afford medicine, food, clothing, shelter, and durable medical supplies for my children. I am also a full-time college student working to get my CMA.

Ashlee Williams
Self - small business owner
Celina, TX

I am a stay-at-home mother, and secondly a small cottage bakery business. I make candied pecans and the majority of my products are sold at farmers markets. Having the ability to wholesale and mainly ship my products online, would be a game changer. I could grow my business while still being home with my kids. This would financially help my family in a great way.

Aliza Miller
Self - IT analyst
Colleyville, TX

We need to support this bill for our entrepreneurs!

Leah Trowbridge
Self
Groesbeck, TX

This bill being approved would allow new opportunities to current cottage bakers, allow an actual livable income and overall benefit bakers providing local food to their communities. Please approve this bill

Alycia Oleary
Friend
Frisco, TX

Please pass this. It would help so many great working moms!!

Christine Nevitt
Solo bakers
Dallas, TX

Please pass this!

Sharon Mayer
Sharons Secret Garden/Real Time Pain Relief
Victoria, TX

I do have a concern about safety for myself and my husband. we are elderly and In these times of crime, I would love it if we didnt have to put our address on cottage food labels. We only sell at markets and those entities have our contact information in case something is needed.

Jennifer Decker, Mrs.
Cottage baker
Grapevine, TX

As a stay home wife who runs a small cottage bakery from the home I urge you to please allow us the opportunities proposed in this bill. Expanding the items that could be sold by a cottage baker and allowing wholesale of our goods would greatly increase my ability to add to my family's income. For every paid order I receive I take on a donation item order for a charity or organization. If I can broaden my offerings and wholesale to different venues I can generate significantly more income and therefore donate more to my community. Furthermore allowing me to register my cottage bakery thereby allowing me to remove my personal home address from my label would increase my family's personal safety. I was slow to begin my cottage bakery due to fear of having my home address placed into the hands of many unknown people as my cookies are purchased and handed out at events like parties and weddings. I do not allow customers to pick up their orders at my home but rather I meet them in public places for the safety of my family. Please put this bill through to ensure my family's safety as I attempt to run a business to supplement income and support my community. As a former nurse who retired having something productive to do like run a cottage bakery so I can help my family and others is so important to my personal fulfillment and mental health. I am grateful for the opportunities that this amazing state of Texas has given me and I pray you will allow our cottage industry to continue to flourish so that we might care for our communities.

Megan Arledge
Self
Roanoke, TX

I respectfully ask for your approval of Bill 829. I moved back to my home state of Texas, from Oklahoma, last year. This bill is similar to one OK has. I was a home baker that sold wholesale to coffee houses, and 3 stores. It allowed me to do what I love and help support our family. My husband works 60 hours and we have a child with special needs. It's my duty to be here to help him, and being able to bake from home and sell wholesale, helps me to be able to afford the extra therapies and sensory needs that my son needs, and allows me to be home to take care of him when needed. Being able to bake from home, while also balancing life, is such a blessing. I'd love for Texas to pass this bill and be even better than the state that's just OK.

Terry Barber
Self
Wills Point, TX

I respectfully ask that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829. If SB 829 is allowed to move forward, it will allow a complete disregard of public health safeguards put in place by the Food and Drug Administration, The Texas Department of State Health Service, Local Health Departments, and countless other federal, state, and local public health protection agencies. It will allow individuals to serve full restaurant menus and to produce manufactured food products out of their home kitchens and offer them direct to the public and to wholesalers without the benefit of regulations or compliance inspections to ensure safe food practices are met. As a concerned citizen, I do not want food that was made in a house with broken refrigeration, sick children, and animals spreading fur and drool all over the food prep areas to be out on store shelves where I may accidentally buy it because it is next to food that was made in a clean commercial kitchen which was inspected and ran with food safety in mind. Additionally, the labeling requirements in SB 829 do not address the size or location of the warning label on homemade wholesale food items. This could lead to small font sizes being used which could cause a person to buy home-produced food by mistake. Finally, allowing the wholesale of home-produced food is a violation of the FDA food code that the State of Texas just adopted. Allowing home-produced food of any kind at wholesale will prevent local health departments from receiving grant money to comply with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (FDA Food Code). Allowing home-produced food products at wholesale would place health departments in violation of the Food Code standards, making them ineligible for grant money available to comply with the food code. Honorable Members of the House Public Health Committee, I thank you for your time and would appreciate your support in joining me in opposing SB 829.

Kerri Barber
Self
Wills Point, TX

I respectfully ask that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Mera Tucker
Tucker Inn Cookies
Powderly, TX

Please pass this bill! It would help my business a lot! Thank you!

Joy Gautney, Ms.
Self / Caregiver
Mesquite, TX

I support SB 829 because it updates and improves the Texas Cottage Food Law, making it easier to buy and sell food produced by small local businesses. This bill will provide countless new opportunities for local entrepreneurs. I ask that you support SB 829!

susan livingston
self / farmer
avery, TX

I support the expansion of cottage food availability to co-ops and mom/pop grocery stores. It provides local residents with a quality source of local food instead relying on products from China (Walmart). It would also increase the supply of organic food, support the farmer and farming families which could passthrough into the next generation. so much infomatio is coming out regarding the uses of chemicals, bugs and other toxic substances the big market food is unreliable! Encourage gardeners to have "victory gardens' once again to supply needs of their families.

Many are starting to avoid the big market stores because they cannot rely on factual labels or the source of the product.

Audrey Wilkerson
Measured Baking Co.
Dallas, TX

SB 829 improves the cottage food law that is currently on the books. There are thousands of us out here making a living with home baking. Cottage baking helps people who cannot work a traditional 9-5 job (such as stay at home parents, seniors, etc.) as well as people who cannot afford to rent a kitchen to make their foods. Being able to sell wholesale will make all of the difference in the world, as well as raising the earnings limit currently in place. We pay taxes and help our communities. We also need to be protected from HOAs telling us we can't bake in our own homes. Please support this bill! Thank you.

Keisha Robinson
Self
El Paso, TX

Hello, my name is Keisha, and I run Lilipad, LLC as its owner and manager. I'm a cottage food maker who focuses on vegan and allergy-friendly baked products. Being given the opportunity to sell wholesale would be a fantastic opportunity to be able to reach more people who have food allergies or dietary constraints. Additionally, having my address taken off the label would be a great idea so that nobody could just show up at my house—especially if I were renting. With all the support that this law is receiving, I sincerely hope that it is passed since it will change people's lives. I appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Nikole Kazinski
Self
Hutto, TX

I have many baker friends that will benefit from this bill. Some of them make their living off of their baked goods. This needs to pass!

Dorothy Sanchez
Democrats of Southern Cameron County
Brownsville, TX

Dear Representatives, as a supporter of Cottage Food Producers please know I support SB 829, and it would mean the world to me and thousands more Texans if you can help support SB 829 too.

I have friends who are Cottage Food Producers that want to grow into a proper small business, and SB 829 gives them that opportunity. Current Cottage Food Law limits their reach to what they can directly sell and distribute, a massive challenge when you are the only person who restocks inventory, bakes, receives orders, sells, and delivers each item directly. SB 829 offers an immediate solution to this bottleneck challenge by allowing for resale/wholesale, which would be like putting rocket boosters on to help them go higher, further, faster.

In today's economic environment, the only way some businesses can afford to hire help and sign a commercial kitchen lease is by working together with other local entrepreneurs instead of alone, which is why SB 829 is critical for every micro entrepreneur who is serious about contributing to our economy in a more impactful manner. With your support, should SB 829 become law, it would be a game-changer for my friends and every hard working Texan that's cooking and baking from home to build a better tomorrow rather than waiting for hand me downs by the government.

Please help us support SB 829 so we can grow our Texas small businesses and create new jobs by allowing them to work together instead of alone. Thank you for everything you do for our great State, God bless you and God bless Texas.

Todd Johnson
self
Brookside Village, TX

We are in support of SB 829. We run a small farm and sell farm eggs under cottage food law. Even though we go to farmers markets each month, we still end up throwing away dozens of eggs each week, because of we lack sufficient places to sell them. This bill would open up more options for us to sell our eggs, decreasing waste and increasing consumer choice.

Jamaica Raith
Self
Dallas, TX

This is ESSENTIAL to help small businesses grow & thrive!

Randy Billings
Abilene Pecan
Abilene, TX

Please vote for this Bill 829. It is needed by your voters.

Emily Hood
Self - executive assistant
Dallas, TX

I support SB 829. Several small businesses in my area are limited by the current laws, and this bill would help support and promote small businesses and keep dollars in our community.

Amy Brookshire, Realtor
#cake
Longview, TX

My friend is a cottage food baker and this would really help her business.

Julie Broussard
Broussard Farms
Kirbyville, TX

Hi, as a small farmer, this bill would allow me to have my products available at additional locations without the need to be there (like I am at a Farmers Market). I believe this would allow me to continue to grow our small business by doing the hands on day to day required while still being able to "legally" market my cottage food products off site.

Keri Salinas
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

This is an important bill, it helps many keep the lights on and bills paid. All food should be legally protected under cottage law!!

Jo Watlington, Mrs
Sea Sum Treats
Lufkin, TX

To adjust cottage laws to accommodate small business

Sarah Monsour
Self /homemaker
Longview, TX

I have a friend that is a cottage baker and this bill would really help her business.

Sarah Carlock
Cottage Bakery-Always Add Sprinkles-Kristen Ray
Weatherford, TX

Support for this bill SB 829

Judy Partee
Self
Abilene, TX

I respectfully ask that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Devin Partee
self
Abilene, TX

I respectfully ask that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Stephanie Brown
Self
Abilene, TX

I respectfully request that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Luke Brown
Self
Abilene, TX

I respectfully request that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Mary Margaret Roane
Let Luce Bakery
Beaumont, TX

I am here to comment on this Bill because it will effect someone I love. My sister in law had the courage and the drive to start her own business as a baker operating out of her home. She works tirelessly to not only educate herself on how to own and operate a business, but to provide the best possible baked goods and customer service to her clients. She works long hours and is constantly striving to learn more and be the best that she can be in her profession. She represents the American dream. I don't think the proper way to reward that is to cap her income and restrict what baked goods she is allowed to sell. Her creativity, drive, and passion for her business make her potential limitless, and it would be a disservice to her and those she serves to stifle that. Please consider passing this Bill to benefit her and those like her who followed a passion to start their own business.

Crystal Perez
Self
Carrollton, TX

I respectfully request that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Moe Perez
Self
Carrollton, TX

I respectfully request that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Mark Rynders
Self
Abilene, TX

I respectfully request that the Honorable Representatives of the House Public Health Committee vote against SB 829.

Tiffany Zucarelli
Self
Buda, TX

The proposal laid out in SB 829 would greatly help me & my family as we explore opening a home cottage bakery. My daughter has a terrible allergy to eggs. We're severely limited as many larger retail bakers cannot make accommodations. Seeing this unmet need, I became passionate about selling egg-free goods. I have not experienced what other operators have given that I'm at the beginning of my journey. However, my husband & I are grappling with sharing our home address (given that we have two small children). We've thought through logistics of delivery or selling at farmers markets to limit strangers coming to our home. I believe these proposals will help us tremendously.

Thank you,
Tiffany

Emily Hendricks
Self
Dallas, TX

This would drastically help my friend who is an incredible cottage law baker in dallas expand her business!!

Nan Woods
Self. Crafter
BAIRD, TX

This bill would certainly benefit many of my friends. There are so many of us trying to survive and many more who need our services. I strongly urge you to pass this bill for the good of the citizens of the great state of Texas. Thank you

Natalie Zaranti
Pampa Farmers Market and myself
Pampa, TX

5 years ago I started a Farmers Market in an area that did not have many food options or job opportunities for our residents. Our vendors not only bring healthy and homemade foods to our community, but many of them rely on their sales for a large portion of their yearly income. Increasing the sales cap will help our vendors to grow their businesses. Removing the address portion of the labeling requirements will help these vendors feel safe from unwanted folks knowing where they live. Allowing refrigerated baked good will help them increase their customer reach and expand their menus. Adding the ability for the vendors to sell wholesale will give them many more opportunities to support their families. Removing certain permitting could allow more vendors to join our market and serve our community. Put the risk back on the consumer and let them make their own decision about what they want to buy and put in their bodies.

Sam Daniels
Self Facility maintenance
Boerne, TX

Very much in support of and for.

Jennifer Sherwood
Texas Bakers
Pflugerville, TX

By passing this bill you'll ensure the betterment and a fair income for those of us needing to sell refrigerated items. Our customer base will expand therefore leading to a potentially better income and sustainably for our families. Those of us that MUST work from home will have greater opportunities. This is near and dear to my heart and I support it fully. I support my fellow cottage food producers and this warrants passing.

Kathryn Hicks
Katie's Cookie Co.
Fort Bliss, TX

As a current cottage bakery owner, I 100% support the changes to SB 829. Being able to wholesale to other businesses in our cities will greatly increase business and revenue. The sales cap will greatly benefit any cottage food operator in Texas and allow us all the same opportunity as different entrepreneurs. Texas already has very supportive cottage food laws and these changes will definitely increase the states support of these businesses by an incredible amount.

Melissa Dowd
Self - Cottage Baker
Ft. Worth, TX

This bill bring passed would mean the world to me because for safety I don't like having my home address on my allergen labels. Too many crazy people in this world and no privacy. Also I would love to be able to have my baked goods in coffee shops etc. Would also love to be able to sell cheesecake.

This bill would mean so much to Cottage Bakers in Texas and we would be so grateful. Please consider passing this bill.

Thank you so much!!

suzanne rittenberry
self
austin, TX

I support the passage of this bill because I support local growers and manufacturers for reasons of finance, health, and sustainability. In every way possible, I would like to take the control of basic human needs out of the hands of corporations and back in the hands of real human beings. Please allow Texans the freedom to purchase our food from small businesses. Thank you.

Lee Wedeberg
Pink Slip Gourmet
Dallas, TX

As a cottage food bakery, I support this bill as it will help me expand my business. Thank you.

Barbara Brown
individual
Liberty, TX

The days of flying food in from far away are coming to a rapid end. Communities will need to increasingly feed themselves from within, therefore cottage foods become essential.

Antonio Garza, SB 829
Baking Bread and Cookies
Kingsland, TX

This bill would greatly help home bakers with there businesses. The changes would provide protection in cases where there is a single parent earning money. Cap increases would be a tremendous help for families, the cap as it is right now doesn't include the costs of the business. Also ingredient costs might hinder the creative and the allergen friendly products cost more to make.

Callie Rayshell
Let Luce Bakery
Dallas, TX

I would love for this to pass to support my friend Lucy's amazing macaron and cake business! Her products are truly excellent and would thrive if they were also able to be sold in local shops around the city. It would also protect her from having to put her own home address on all her packaging.

Joy Higgins
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

The changes to this bill will allow for me to sale products to establishments that heave been asking since I started. These changes will also allow for me to incorporate more items to my menu. I've had people just show up at my house because of the address that has to be posted currently. Allowing for the address to be sent once payment for an invoice will help stop the flow of traffic to my house and then the disappointment from people that there isn't any baked goods laying around for them purchase at the last minute.

Cassie Rindahl
Seld
Newark, TX

Please approve this bill

Kelly McLaughlin
Self- cottage food baker
Alvin, TX

I am a cottage food baker. With the current limits on the cottage food industry it is impossible to cover the rising cost of ingredients and still make a profit. This bill will help to start to alleviate this problem. For this and many other reasons I support SB-829. Thank you

Violeta Veliotis
Self/ Cottage Baker
Rockport, TX

Have you ever heard the words " My accomplishments will determine my rewards. " That is my motto. As a Texas cottage baker the challenges I face every time I bake has allowed me to developed my skills, to utilize my creativity, it has enable me to pursue the American dream. Being able to provide for my household with the sweat of my brow literally, is the most rewarding feeling in the world. Can you imagine the rewards that Cottage producers could reap if given SB 829 the opportunity to Pass? This opportunity would enable us to prosper. What is the one thing that makes you feel proud? I am most positively sure it's your ability to accomplish something that brings you joy. Well, the same goes for Cottage producers, the feed back we get from our costumers when they taste part of our American dream its the most proud feeling, its a feeling of accomplishment... and we just want to do it all over again. Be part of the American dream of every Texas cottage producer, its a beautiful big dream, as Big as Texas. - V. VELIOTIS

Rosa Elena B Dickerson
Home Owners
San Antonio, TX

I believe that this bill should pass so that people who are baking and making goods in their homes can sell their goods. Good people trying to make a living shouldn't be limited to making their goods. They are just honest, hard working people trying to make a living in this harsh economy.

Dana Dobbs
Republican County Chair of Goliad County And Owner of The Artisan Shop of Goliad on Mainstreet
Victoria, TX

Thank you, Senator Kolkhorst for updating a bill to meet the needs of our citizens.

Artisan is the definition of homemade/ handmade at my shop I provide a space to allow venders to have a home that the public can access products that are locally made or sourced within Texas. As a shop owner I am limited on whom I can provide a space to under the current law. With this revision I can open the doors to a new line of products.

Goliad County is the home of Texas ranching as many may know. Farming produce alongside cattle has also been a long tradition, starting in Goliad as far back to when the Spanish priests taught the native Indians tribes during the settlement of Goliad. Our citizens of Goliad County have and continue to live by the land from beyond the the beginning of Texas.

During the pandemic, citizens returned to the traditional ways of the past, and became accustomed to the organic foods and self sustaining life styles, free of preservatives and additives. As the world returned to before we still want these types of products, even if day to day life doesn't afford us the time to make them ourselves. SB 829 will allow access to these products more than monthly market days and weekly farmers market. The available wholesale update will allow shops like mine to offer a home for these local producers.

As County Chair I have heard the voices of the citizens of Goliad County and these are their words. They want SB 829 to pass, so they can provide local sourced products on a larger scale to meet the needs of our community. We as Goliad County support Senator Kolkhorst and SB 829.

Thank you,
Dana R. Dobbs
Owner Artisan Shop
Republican County Chair of Goliad County

Stacie Seidler
Mothers Love Bake shop
West Columbia, TX

Help small businesses

Joel Hutton
Tunland Farm
Mount Pleasant, TX

We are a small, veteran-owned farm "start-up". We have been in business for just under two years and our goal is to create great food for our customers. Part of that will include foods that fall under the cottage food laws. Our goal is to derive 100% of our income from the farm as we transition from our corporate jobs. While I think there should be no limit to the revenues someone could generate from their business, increasing the limit from the current level, especially in these economic times, does provide a greater opportunity for We the People to earn a living from these businesses. Thank you for your consideration.

Guy Gregory
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Passing this bill will allow my wife's small business to help the economy of both our community and surrounding area but will increase our family income.

Mark Gregory
Sweet Nibbles Bakery
Flower Mound, TX

Please pass this bill so my moms business can continue to grow so she can help put me through college.

Kim Walker- Wheatley
Self-retired
Hawkins, TX

I strongly support this bill. In the past, I have supplemented my income by selling cakes. But, for some, being able to produce and sell food at home is more than "supplemental". To them, it may mean having the financial resources to provide basic needs for their families. Please provide the legal support to those families and pass this bill

Sarah Nava
Seld
Dickinson, TX

Please help the cottage food small business and pass this bill. I know many cottage food bakers and they are important to our community

Maria Alfred
Self, home baker
Orange, TX

I really think this bill should be passed to allow home bakers to expand their services and provide for their families further.

Kelley Masters, President
Homemade Texas
Cedar Park, TX

I've been advocating for home bakers for 14 years, since before Texas even had a cottage food law and there was no such thing as a cottage food producer. Back in 2009, cottage foods was a very new idea. There were only about 10 states that had laws allowing the sale of homemade food. Texas passed its cottage food law in 2011, and other states soon followed. Today all 50 states allow the sale of homemade food.

Not only has the number of states with cottage food laws expanded, but the scope of those laws is expanding as well. Texas's law, while at the forefront of the movement the last time we expanded in 2019, is now considered to be one of the more restrictive in the country. One website that catalogs and ranks cottage food laws, rates our law 2 out of 5 on their favorability scale compared to other states.

The changes proposed in SB 829 help bring Texas more in line with other states, especially our neighbors, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. SB 829 is a well-crafted bill that expands the cottage food law while keeping necessary protections for food safety and traceability. It will benefit thousands of entrepreneurs and small businesses. Please vote yes and send this bill to the House floor.

Elizabeth Newton
Self - Photographer
Weatherford, TX

One of my best friends owns a Cottage Bakery in Fort Worth. She supplies all of the smash cakes for my Cake Smash photo sessions. I've been helping her build her home business, but her incredible talent is kneecapped by the legislation in place. Raising the limit to \$100k and allowing her to wholesale could change her whole life and allow her the ability to earn enough to open a storefront! Please heavily consider those who pour their everything into their home bakery and follow the rules put in place. It would mean so much to her and motivated business owners like her in the great state of Texas.

Tina Schooler
Raider West Farms
Lubbock, TX

Hello,

Our small farm grows lavender and herbs to produce value-added products which we currently retail online and in person at events and farmers markets.

The passing of SB 829 has so many benefits that will create endless opportunities. It will also allow our farm to fulfill requests for wholesale orders.

Thank you in advance for supporting Texas food entrepreneurs and voting in favor of SB 829!

Tina Schooler
Raider West Farms
4304 Alcove Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79407

Keira Clark
Swlf
Houston, TX

I support this bill. As a cottage food maker it is critical that we be able to keep our home address private while still being reachable and verified as those following the laws and regulations.

Please pass this bill.

Jeanne Clark, Owner Chocolates by Jeanne
Chocolates by Jeanne
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Please pass this so I can continue to operate as a cottage business without onerous restrictions on my operating threshold.

Cheryl Zelezniak
Self/ Cottage Law Baker
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill

Sherry Castle
self
Corpus Christi, TX

I support this bill

Pamela Pool
Self
Spring, TX

I want this bill to pass

Terresa Lato
Self
Canyon lake, TX

Please pass this bill. As a cottage baker I would benefit greatly from the increased income maximum. I also believe that allowing bakers the safety of removing their home address from labels is very important. This can be a safety issue. Thank you for your consideration.

azanett bazan
Nan's (hojarascas) cookies
Pasadena, TX

Changes to this bill would allow us the opportunity to continue the path fulfill my father's dream. It would allow us the opportunity to bake and allow sales to others small businesses such as coffee shops and offer our services to venues for events such as weddings and quinceañeras.
Nan's (hojarascas) cookies is in favor of SB 829

Thank you.

Gloria Rodriguez, Mrs.
Self
Cleburne, TX

Support the mom-preneur! This would definitely help us women who are stuck in the home raising our little ones. I support this with all my desire to one day own my own dessert pastry shop. It is very difficult to find and pay someone that we can trust to watch our children whilst we work so this would open soo many doors for us mom-preneurs. Cheers to making our dreams of being proud owners of our own creations businesses.

geneva goza, Ms
Self, sales
Garland, TX

I support this.

Mandy Popejoy
Self. Cottage law baker
Lubbock, TX

I support this bill! It will help me and my business as a cottage law baker. Please pass this bill!!

Melissa Renfroe
Self/Home baker
Cleburne, TX

Please support this bill! As a Texas Home Baker, this bill would greatly improve and expand my home business and open up additional opportunities. It would also help me to better help support my family. It would also greatly increase my safety as a home baker. Thank you in advance for your support

Tina Strickland
Self, Southern Magnolia Promotions & Apparel
New Braunfels, TX

I support this bill. Those that have talents should be able to use those talents to not only support themselves and their families but flourish as well. I am super excited by this!

Ahna Delgado
Self
Aledo, TX

This bill will allow me to continue to supplement my income. I am never going to become a millionaire by doing this and I would appreciate less restrictions on my ability to make extra money. By the passage of this bill it opens up the opportunity to gain more customers. Thank you.

Monica Holbert
self, home baker
Round Rock, TX

I am a home baker and with covid my ability to meet with customers face to face had become more limited. The ability to sell to my local markets or have vendors take my cookies with them to events would be a big boost in my ability to reach those customers I cannot reach on my own. I also would very much like the ability to keep my home address off my product labels. As a home baker, leaving my address make my family exposed to those that might not have the best intentions or come by unannounced thinking that I am a shop. Please support this bill for me and my fellow home bakers. Thank you.

Angela Watts
Self
Haslet, TX

This bill has broad support and is huge in helping small businesses mostly women owned. PLEASE PASS THE BILL!

Kristen Babcock, Mrs
Self, bakery owner
Cibolo, TX

This would be such a blessing for us right now. Me and my family support this bill.

Kathy Novian
Mann & Frau Country Store
San Angelo, TX

Please pass SB 829. This will open up a greater opportunity to those of us who are doing is legally.

Debra Duncan
Self
West Columbia, TX

I strongly support this bill.

jennie hale
self
houston, TX

i support this bill

Madison Aguilar
Self home baker
El Paso, TX

If SB 829 passed it will open many opportunities for me and other bakers as the market is saturated with the familiar baked good.

Brenda Halbardier
Self, cottage industry
La Porte, TX

As a cottage industry participant (homemade baked and canned goods) I urge you to pass this bill. It will facilitate the growth of not just my, but all, cottage industry businesses.

Ramona Ridge
Fulshear Farmers' Market
Richmond, TX

Please pass this bill. These are some common sense amendments to the current law.
Thank you!

Rosemary Galpin
Self
Luling, TX

As a home baker struggling to make ends meet while producing high quality products, I TOTALLY support this bill and pray that you do so as well.

Leon Galpin
Self
Luling, TX

As the husband of a home baker struggling to make ends meet while producing high quality products, I TOTALLY support this bill and pray that you do so as well.

Leon J Galpin
Self
Smithville, TX

As the father in law of a home baker struggling to make ends meet while producing high quality products, I TOTALLY support this bill and pray that you do so as well.

Scott Horner
Myself
College Station, TX

I am in support of this bill

Christine Morrison
Confections by Chris
Rosanky, TX

SB 829 by Kolkhorst - Please pass this bill. It has my full support and will have a positive effect for many small business people.

Alicia Arbaugh
Royal Raven Custom Cookie Designs
Leander, TX

I support this bill

Jake Wright
Spouse's cottage bakery business
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. It supports small businesses and Texas entrepreneurs. It largely supports women who work from home. It will help my wife continue to stay home to raise our 3 young children by giving them extra income avenues.

Lea Ann Carter
Self
Princeton, TX

I strongly support this bill! I am recently widowed, I have youth but ageism has affected my ability to find work, I have been a baker since age 9 and have baked for events weddings smalls sales for years with so many barriers. Now there is a need to support the community with healthy baked goods to be made available to them that I could also have income from- please pass this bill!

Angel Burrell
Myself
Little Elm, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Please pass

Tressa Williams
Self home baker
Round Rock, TX

I support this bill.

Miguel Chavez
Self
Spring, TX

I am suuporting the bill SB 829

Robin Black
Self
Celina, TX

I have been a cake artist operating under the Texas Cottage Food law since 2013. I would love to see this bill passed to increase my income from \$50k- \$100k annually. The current law has us home bakers capped at \$50k annually. To help supplement my capped income, I am forced to work two jobs. This is due to the rising costs of everything from inflation. My second job is contract work for Uber Eats and DoorDash. It puts unnecessary wear and tear on my car, just trying to pay the bills. In addition to the salary increase, I am constantly turning down requests for cheesecakes, because they are illegal to produce in Texas as a home baker. I would love to be able to add cheesecakes to my menu. Please consider supporting and passing SB829 to help out all the small business owners operating legally under the Texas Cottage Food Law. Thank you,
Robin Black
Cake Agent, Celina, TX

Denise Everett
Self
Forney, TX

I believe the new regulations up for approval in SB 829 would be a positive improvement for all cottage bakers in Texas. Expanding the foods allowed to include refrigerated items would allow bakers to provide more options to customers (ex. puddings, cheesecake) who might need food that does not include flour/grain products, to follow a keto diet, and to have more variety to choose from. It allows bakers to earn some money for good, homemade food to sell to others that might not be good cooks, nor have the time to bake. Increasing the annual sales cap allows bakers to make a living wage from their home baking business, as does the ability to sell wholesale. For myself, and the first time in my life, I found it difficult to get hired by a company to earn a decent salary, even with a degree and good references, possibly due to my age. So, baking from home and selling to others allows me to earn money for my household and feel pride in what I do. Wedding cakes are my favorite creation. I love to help people have the happiest day possible by providing them with wedding cakes. The joy on their faces when they see the beautiful cakes makes it so worth while. Lately, however, most couples have been asking for individual desserts in cup, (refrigerated mousse and pudding type desserts) that currently is not allowed. I have lost business, entire wedding orders, because of not being able to supply these items. We as cottage bakers have to take the food handlers course and renew it, so we all have training on how to store these foods. So, why can't we make and sell them? Being a cottage food baker is my sole source of income. Approving SB 829 would allow me to continue and improve my product offerings and my business as well as anyone else who is currently a Texas Cottage Food Baker. Please consider these points and the benefit to all cottage bakers. Please approve SB 829 for the benefit of all cottage bakers and their customers, maybe even yourself! ??????????

Monica Ruelas
Self
Hockley, TX

This will help many cottage food bakers be able to offer more products and expand their small business!

Sallie Lozoya
Self
Odessa, TX

This bill would help me tremendously. I would be able to expand the items I sell in farmers markets. I am a single mother and sell items at farmers markets to help supplement my income.

Robin Lamprecht
Self
West Orange, TX

I'm home. Baker's and I work very hard and it would be very nice to have the cottage laws extended to make it easier for us to bake.

Michal Dye
Me myself and I
Pflugerville, TX

Having the ability to produce on my land is freedom. Regulation is just intrusive to freedom. It's a pie. People like it. They know who they are buying from. Lets keep life simple.

Charles Marcus
Creative Cakes by Charles
Helotes, TX

I hope you expand the small business baking business/community laws to allow us more "freedom" to expand

Marla Bartus, Owner
MB Chocolatier
Katy, TX

I support this bill.

Shreya Talwar
self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill

Brian McGarry
Code/Health Officer
Euless, TX

Please note and record that we do not support SB 829. This would cause New and Great challenges to Public Health. Thank you. Brian.

Sandra Doss

Self/ stay at home Mom

London, TX

I am a stay at home Mother as well as a vendor at our local Farmers Market. I enjoy providing high quality food to my community. We live in a “food desert”. The FM provides literally the only access and exposure to clean, healthy foods here. I have been able to increase our families monthly income substantially. Which takes the pressure off my husband for being sole provider. This improves my marriage and family dynamics! My children help my small business in many ways. They help set up my booth, box up and label items & pack the truck to go to market. In so doing, they witness my grit and commitment. As well as seeing the spirit of entrepreneurship and community. This is so in line with Texas values! I would appreciate the ability to expand my business. I would appreciate the opportunity to create more diverse foods and sell to food establishments without punishments or permits. This bill would enhance my family’s financial well being and provide such unique food experiences for my community. Thank You for this opportunity to share my story and support this bill!

Mary Purcell

Self

Victoria, TX

I’m Mary Purcell from Victoria County, Supporting Senate Bill 829.

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

As a cottage food operator, small farmer, and allergy mom, I am extremely thankful for Texas’ Cottage Food laws, and would love to see them safely expanded, just as this bill proposes.

While producing and selling cottage foods provided a much-needed supplemental income for our family in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and in the midst of Covid, being a small farmer and Cottage Food Operator is about more than our personal story; it’s about being part of the bigger community and part of the local food security chain for our friends and neighbors. We were recently reminded of this by a friend whose cafe is near a medical community where grab-and-go foods are always in demand. During Covid, she, and others, had a hard time finding baked goods to sell. This would have been a perfect opportunity for Cottage Food bakers to step in and fill some gaps. Going forward, we now know that expanding local food options can protect our communities, ensuring we have local food sources readily available, especially during times of supply shortages.

Cottage Food Operators can also be a huge lifeline for allergy families. Families with soy, nut, gluten, dairy, and other allergies often face great challenges finding fresh breads, cookies, pastries, and so forth, especially in small towns. Being an allergy family ourselves, we are compassionate and try hard to make these orders possible for others, but the reality is that sometimes it’s just too expensive for us to make only two-three of a particular product. Baking several dozen and arranging to sell the surplus to, or at, small shops would make it possible to meet client demands, even in the smaller orders, without heavily impinging on our profits.

One final comment. Farmers’ Markets can be a great option for Cottage Food businesses and customers, but not every operator can leave their farm for the day, especially every week, over several months, and when sales are not guaranteed. Likewise, not all consumer schedules mesh with Farmers’ Market schedules. This amendment would essentially bring Farmers’ Markets into Mom and Pop shops, enhancing customer accessibility and convenience, increasing profits for both shops and operators, boosting local food security, and building the local economy. That’s a home run in the Cottage Food world!

We thank you for caring about Local Food issues, and for helping to bring about these positive changes in our communities!

Leanna Johnson, Dr.
Self, owner of Cookie Crumbelievable, LLC
Fort Worth, TX

I support the expansion of the guidelines related to Cottage Food operations. Women are the majority of cottage food operators. Performed responsibly, cottage food operations act as a major source of income for women in this state and putting addresses on the labels potentially endangers them. One operator was violently raped in her own home due to this requirement. Raising the income cap, similarly, would allow women to pursue their passions full time and still pay the bills, which is increasingly important during this period of unprecedented inflation. Please consider voting yes to implement these changes.

Donna Swarb
Self
Granbury, TX

Please approve this bill. As a cottage food baker, it has important updates to the current law. Personally I find having to list my home address on each & every label as a security concern and would welcome the removal of this information. As costs have gone up, so have the price of my goods, so an increase in the sales limit would be most welcome. Living in a small town, the ability to have some indirect sales avenue to sell to would be a win win for me & the community. Please approve this bill. It is good for Texas.

Di Cannone
self, retail manager
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill!

Deneise Thibault, LCDC
self
Mineral Wells, TX

This is a bill that needs to be passed for Texas. I support SB 829 and ask that you vote Yes on May 15. Thank You and God Bless.

Ashley Roznovsky
Self
Kyle, TX

I believe the cap on sales should be higher and I think they should be allowed to sell refrigerated goods! I would love to be able to buy cheesecake

Sarah Halaszyn
Self (home baker)
Richardson, TX

Please pass this bill - it would be so helpful for the thousands of cottage bakers in Texas who depend on their baking income.

Misty Tannery
Aunt Misty's
Bullard, TX

Relating to SB 829. As a seller myself I would appreciate the consideration of this bill to further my business and income. Member of the community can more easily have access to my product if I can be allowed to sell wholesale. Which would benefit my family. Also, eliminating my home address from the label decrease my risk as a homeowner and increases safety. Thank you for your attention

Mamie Mendoza
Self - Home Cottage Baker
Corpus Christi, TX

I support this bill!!

Candra Gammon
Self
Baytown, TX

I support this bill

Justina Rucinski
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Holly Ramsey
Self/cottage baker
Llano, TX

I have been a cottage baker for over 20 years. It helps me pay my bills. It helped me raise a child and send her to A&M. I have taught cake decorating for years. We need changes. We need to be able to frost our red velvet cakes with cream cheese frosting! We need to be able to make and sell buttermilk pie! So many Texas favorites are out of our reach due to laws. Please pass this bill, those of us following the letter of the law want this change.

Donna Leever
Myself
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill!

Erica Green
Self
Wylie, TX

Please pass this bill.

Stefani Johnson
Self
League City, TX

Please pass this bill

Amber Harrington
Self
Groves, TX

I support

Dawn Hart
Self, Candy Maker
College Station, TX

I am writing in support of SB 829. If passed this bill will be instrumental in the growth and success of not only my small business, but many across Texas. I work full time and have a small, scratch-made candy business. It is my dream to turn my candy company, Hart of Texas Caramel, into a full time business. Being able to sell my products through third party vendors and raising the income cap would help me succeed in accomplishing my dream. Over the past two years, businesses, boutiques, small and large grocers (H-E-B, being one), and a local theme park, have offered to carry my products or help me get my product carried in their stores. As you can imagine, these opportunities would help me reach my goal of working my business full time, however, I have had to turn down these opportunities because I am unable to afford the upfront cost of a commercial kitchen and as a Cottage Food Producer I am unable to sell my products through third parties. I know I am not the only person having to turn down great opportunities for the same reason. As you can see, this bill will help me and many other small business across Texas succeed, so I am asking you to please support SB829 and help small businesses succeed, and encouraging new ones to begin. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for joining the efforts to get Sb829 passed.

Lori Peterson
Taste Es Sweets and Treats
Princeton, TX

Please pass this bill!

Kay Baker
Self
Yoakum, TX

I support the passage of SB 829 changing and clarifying Cottage Food Laws.

Lesli Ridgway
self , teacher and hobby crafter
Weatherford, TX

Please pass this bill.

Heather Boofer
Self
Scurry, TX

I support this bill!

La Krisha Robinson
Self
El Paso, TX

I support this bill.

Andrea De Gortari
Self/home Baker
Houston, TX

I support this bill!

April Kendrick
Self
Carrollton, TX

I support this bill.

Mickey Gunn
Self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill!

Christina Murrey
Self
Rockwall, TX

Please consider pushing this bill/law into action to help all the cottage home bakers.

Paula Ward
Self
Fairview, TX

Please pass this bill!

MARY MONZON
Self
Pasadena, TX

This bill will enable so many families in starting their own business. It's a win for everyone. Please pass it!!!

Meredith Ratliff
Self
Richardson, TX

I support the changes to this bill.

Sandy Crawford
Self
Hermleigh, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill! Thank you!

Paula Ward
Self
Fairview, TX

Please pass to not require a home address on a label. This is Not safe!
Thank you

Bailey Freeman
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill

Carla Mata
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill

Cinthya Luna
Self
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill please approve it.

Ashley Little
Self baker
Chico, TX

I support this bill!!

Susn Lemmon
Self - Cottage Food Producer
Greenville, TX

I urge approval of SB829 to benefit the work opportunities of Cottage Food Producers. Especially, in the economic hard times, it would expand the opportunity of Cottage Food producers.

Laveta Wingate, Ms
Self
Chico, TX

I support the bill.

Eve Luna
Self
Cypress, TX

I Support this bill.

Mandah Wilson
Self/Baker
Lewisville, TX

Please pass this bill.

Teresa Gordon
Self
Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill.

Antonio Luna
Self
Cypress, TX

Please approve this bill

Julia Wolverton
Self
Cypress, TX

Please pass this bill.

Lacey Turner
Self
Temple, TX

I support this bill.

Katisha Pace
Self
Rowlett, TX

I support this bill

Barbara Burke
Self, office administrator, part time Cottage Food Baker la
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. I support this bill!

Tessy Phillips
Self cottage home bakery owner
Sugar Land, TX

Passing this bill is pf critical importance to small business home bakers and adds no risk or additional costs to the state, or it's citizens.

Allyn Wherry
Self - home baker
Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill!

Lisa Lusty
Self
Chico, TX

I support this bill

Valerie Bass
Self - home baker
Flower Mound, TX

In favor of omitting address from food labels with registration, allowance of selling refrigerated products and raising income cap

JANET DOLAN
Self
Jacksonville, TX

Please pass this bill.

Danika Grant
Self - Cottage Baker
Royse City, TX

This change would substantially help my small cottage bakery. Please establish this change!

Sheri Surels
Self/owner
Fort worth, TX

For safety measures, I'm in support of taking off home address on food cottage labels.

Angeline Bickel
Self/Pastry Chef
Burleson, TX

Let's get this thing passed, for all those hardworking small business owners!

Shaundra Bevins
Self
Springtown, TX

I support this bill

Megan Lozano
Hazel's Kitchen LLC
Coppell, TX

I fully support SB829. I have a cottage food business and increasing the sales cap would significantly and positively impact our business. We would also love to be able to sell our products through a wholesaler. Lastly, it would mean a lot to not have to disclose our address on every label. For privacy and security reasons, I would love to know plaster my personal address on everything.

Thank you for prioritizing this piece of legislation this session. It will impact my family and my ability to provide for my 6 kids.

Ida Rodriguez
Self - teacher
Brownsville, TX

I support this bill

Valinda Rustam
Self, Cottage Food Baker: Lindy's Baklava
Austin, TX

I'm thankful for the current Texas' Cottage Food Law as it has allowed me to share my joy of baking Baklava from my home. I am able to make a safe & delicious product from my home.

The new provisions of this Bill will allow me to reach a broader audience by allowing me to sell wholesale and allow me to place my Baklava with others without having to be physically present at the front or tail end of the sale to my customers. Thanking you in advance for granting us home bakers some autonomy in sharing and distributing our baked goods for the enjoyment of others.

Tiffany Baugh
Dragonfly Ranch
Groves, TX

Less government in our kitchens. More Freedom to choose what is good and safe and healthy for our families stop limiting women's ability to make the food decisions for themselves and families

Kris Scherm, Mr
Self - product management
Richardson, TX

I support this bill. I enjoy buying and supporting cottage foods. I'm excited about the creativity and the quality of the products that the cottage industry can produce. This bill will help them expand with the inflation that surrounds us.

Alanna Kaup, Mrs.
Self
El Pao, TX

Allowing clients to have access to my home address is detrimental to my physical safety.

Timothy Copeland
Self, Project Engineer
Spring, TX

Please pass this bill

Tanya Schnetzer
Cookie Cutter's Sugar Shack
Gainesville, TX

I support this bill.

Kellee Everts
Self
San Antonio, TX

Doubling the current annual sales cap from \$50,000 to \$100,000 would allow me to take my Cottage Bakery from a part-time business to my full-time career. I love my community and want to extend our reach with what we do even further in the community while not being penalized for exceeding the annual cap. With that, 3 out of 5 customers ask if we can ship our product and request that we do. I am allowed to sell in the entire state of Texas, but currently not allowed to ship within the state, which makes no sense and is outdated. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and appreciate your consideration.

Lisa Belknap
Self
Longview, TX

I support this bill

Aimee Benitez
Self/ cottage baker
Friendswood, TX

I support this bill.

Renee Fry
Self
Katy, TX

SB829 would help me and many other families by broadening the menu of what we can provide to others. We provide this service to others who do not typically have time to bake for their families, yet still love to eat homemade baked items.

Areli Gonzalez
Self
Edinburg, TX

Please pass this bill

Marci Pearson
I represent myself and I own a cottage food business.
Denison, TX

This bill would help so many of us be able serve our customers better and offer more of a variety. There's so many benefits to allowing this bill to pass. I support it as so many of us do.

Ashley Verhagen
Self, baker
Frisco, TX

I support this bill!

Sheila Brunner
Self
Flatonia, TX

I am a home baker and jelly maker. I enjoy and need supplemental income for my social security going to markets with my products and selling privately. This HB would be a blessing for many and other home bakers in Texas.

Sheilah Hale, Mrs
Self
Sulphur Springs, TX

I support this bill

Lauria Boone
Self cottage foods
Chireno, TX

As for sb829 i support it:

Suzanne Lovegren
Self - native plant grower
SAN BENITO, TX

I support this bill.

Nathan Fikkert
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please pass this bill! It will help my family be able to live more comfortably as it opens the doors for significantly more opportunities for my home based business.

We need this to pass

Prisilla Cope
Homemade Goods
Alice, TX

So many in my underserved and ignored community rely on the purchase of their homemade goods, from cakes to breads and cookies. Thank you.

Pamela Wilcox
Self/Retired
Crockett, TX

Please pass this bill.

Vanessa Herrera
Emma's home place bakery
El Paso, TX

I am a cottage baker, I am a mother trying to financially support her family. I support this bill because it would greatly help expand my business but also make me feel safer. Adding my home address to my products has resulted in very scary close calls and random people coming to my home onto my property at night terrifying my children.

Sharon Adames
Self
Heath, TX

Please pass this bill to allow sustainable income during a rapidly increasing cost of living.

Brian Snyder
Self/cottage baker
Jarrell, TX

Please help all of us cottage bakers and pass this. The label change is wonderful but more importantly, the ability to see TCS foods. It would mean so much to me and all other bakers.

Joseph Kinsler
Uncle Joe's Cookies - Cottage food business
Celina, TX

The changes proposed by SB829 would be truly game changing for my own, and countless other, cottage food businesses. Support for this is support for the smallest of small businesses and entrepreneurs of all ages.

Dulce Franco
Self
Conroe, TX

I support this bill, please pass it.

John Herrera
Emma's place home bakery
El Paso, TX

I support this bill

Elizabeth Soriano
Self - Home Baker
Troup, TX

Please remove the requirement for home addresses to be on CottGe Baker Food Labels. I am a 70 year old widow that lives alone. I bake to supplement my Social Security income. I am extremely uncomfortable having my home address available to strangers. I have absolutely no problem registering with the state so that I can be located if there is ever a problem or complaint about my product but it scares me to have it on labels when unscrupulous customers know that I deal primarily in cash at Farmer's Markets. Thank you in advance for protecting very small businesses like mine.

Katy Pickens
Self
Fate, TX

This bill has enormous benefits to me as a cottage baker and my family and livelihood. Please pass!

Bailey Hebert
Self
Waco, TX

Please pass this bill!

Isabel Shrouder
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

This bill is very important to myself and so many other cottage bakers. It would allow my small business to help other people in a bigger way. This bill would help in protecting our family by keeping our address confidential. SB 829 would hold the health department accountable and support cottage bakers.

Rebecca Hutchinson

Self

Austin, TX

I am a cottage food business owner. This bill is so incredibly important to me and every other cottage food business owner in this state.

I currently live in Austin, Texas. The cost of living is exorbitant. There is no way someone can make a living and pay rent:mortgage and bills under the current laws. The \$50,000 yearly cap is unreasonable. That doesn't take into account any ingredients, material costs, energy usage, taxes, certificates, fees, or liability insurance costs.

Another thing that would benefit my business, would b be not including my home address on my food labels. I have three young children and their safety is my top priority. Although my clients do pick up from my residence, my label will likely be seen by more than just my clients. It will probably end up in the trash. Countless individuals who I do not know directly have access to this information. It would be immeasurably safer if I could register with the state and leave my actual address off my food labels.

Although there are many other benefits to this bill, these two would make the most impact for me and my family. I urge you to push this through and help all your constituents in this state who are following the cottage food laws and trying to support their family doing something they love.

Thank you!

Alexis Alba

Nan's Hojarascas Cookies

La Porte, TX

I support this bill.

Marc Saenz

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Dorcas Johnson

Self

Lewisville, TX

I support this bill

Daniel Hebert

Self

Waco, TX

This will be very helpful, please vote yes!

Eric Alba

Nan's Hojarascas Cookies

La Porte, TX

I support this bill

Erin Vasquez
Self
Magnolia, TX

It is important to me that SB829 passes as myself and my husband are law enforcement and I do not want to distribute my address on my baked goods. I am in the process of beginning my business and want the ability to grow not only in income, but also in baking options, including refrigerated goods. Thank you for taking the time to read our comments and consider our requests for our future businesses.

Jose Bazan
Self
Pasadena, TX

It's time to support small business.

Karen Wilson
Cottage baker
Georgetown, TX

Passing this bill supports all the cottage bakers and small businesses in Texas who make a living in their homes.

Destenie Duplessis
Nan's Hojarascas Cookies
houston, TX

I support this bill.

Arianna Soto
Nan's Hojarascas Cookies
Pasadena, TX

i support this bill

Rena Lum Hee
Self, baker
Richardson, TX

Please remove the need for personal home addresses on individually labeled goods. It confuses customers in thinking they can arrive unannounced at the address looking to purchase items.

Ashley Velasquez
Self
Houston, TX

Dear House Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to support SB829, a bill that would make important changes to benefit Texas Home Cottage Bakers.

This comprehensive bill includes several key provisions that would promote entrepreneurship and innovation, improve food safety standards, and create new economic opportunities for Texans.

Firstly, SB829 would allow the director or officer of a nonprofit organization to produce cottage foods, eliminating previous uncertainty around whether nonprofit organizations could legally produce and sell these goods.

Secondly, the bill would increase the income cap for cottage food producers to \$100,000 per year, allowing more small businesses to scale up and reach more customers.

Thirdly, SB829 would allow resale and wholesale of cottage foods through a "cottage food vendor" at farmers markets, farm stands, food service establishments, or retail food stores. This change would give cottage food producers greater access to markets and increase their revenue potential. The bill would require cottage food vendors to disclose that the food was produced in a home kitchen and may contain allergens.

Fourthly, SB829 would make the home address on cottage food labels optional, replacing it with the name, city, and zip code of the producer, along with contact information for the producer. This change would protect the privacy of cottage food producers while still providing consumers with the information they need to make informed purchasing decisions.

Fifthly, the bill would explicitly prohibit local governments from requiring licenses or permits to sell cottage foods and would prohibit local officials from employing anyone who knowingly violates this provision. This change would eliminate burdensome and unnecessary regulations that can stifle small businesses.

Finally, SB829 would allow the sale of baked goods that require refrigeration, such as custard, pumpkin pie, cheesecake, and cream pies. This change would expand the variety of products that cottage food producers can offer, providing consumers with greater choice and supporting the growth of small businesses.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support SB829 and help Texas Home Cottage Bakers thrive. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ashley Velasquez
The Madd Batter LLC

Lorri Sweetman
Sweet and Savory Kitchen
Kirbyville, TX

Please pass this bill to help us hobbyists and other small businesses that are trying to get started/grow.

Jenny Moeckel
Self
Rockport, TX

We need this to pass so we can be more successful and offer more variety! We have families to support!

angelina duplessis, Nan's Hojarascas Cookies
Nan's Hojarascas Cookies
Pasadena, TX

i support this bill

Carla Siegel
Self/Texas cottage bakers
Wolfforth, TX

Hi my name is Carla Siegel I'm from the Lubbock Texas area. I am greatly concerned about the limitations we have as Texas cottage bakers. I do not really have my business up and going yet, that I am still working on that. We would like to take our physical addresses off of the labels and put only on contact information phone number email or a mailing address. I would like the cap on our total income to be raised as well. I would like to be able to do refrigerated products as long as they are properly labeled and dated. I would be deeply honored for you to take all of these things and consideration to help benefit our businesses and our families. Sincerely, Carla Siegel

Anna Dye
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. As a Texan with food allergies it can be difficult to find safe baked goods and food, expanding the allowed foods that a cottage baker can sell would increase our options to get baked goods from cottage bakers in our communities that also understand and live with allergies similar to our own. Additionally this bill will make having the cottage baker's home address optional on all the labels required for each product they sell, this is an important safety concern for many Texans including myself. I have heard of cottage bakers in my area and nearby cities who have had people showing up at their place of residence unexpectedly even during unreasonable hours. As a gluten free baker I have considered starting a cottage bakery but the requirement to place my home address on every product has held me back, during the past couple years several of the gluten free establishments in my area have closed and I know my community misses those restaurants and bakeries as it has been mentioned in gluten free support groups I am in on various occasions. If this bill passed it would allow me to comfortably open my own cottage bakery offering gluten free baked goods that would fill a need in my community.

Sarah Arnold
Self
Whitney, TX

Please pass this desperately needed bill. A lot of us cottage food operators and farmers are struggling and we would be able to increase commerce in this great state of Texas if this is passed!

Christina Lake, Baker
Self
Blanco, TX

I have an in home bakery in Blanco County. So many 3rd parties are wanting to sell my baked good but can not because of certain regulations of the TFCL. This would help me finacial and help my business grow! Also I have family out of state that is wanting me to ship my baked good but that is something else I can not to under the certain laws as well! Please help your small cottage businesses!!!!

Brandie Croat
Self - Cottage Baker
Magnolia, TX

Please allow cottage bakers the right to privacy by eliminating the requirement for home addresses to be listed on sold baked goods. Many home bakers would love to expand their businesses by having the ability to sell a larger variety of goods, such as cheesecakes and pierced fruits. Please vote to allow us this opportunity. Thank you.

Ann Evans
Self, baker
Dublin, TX

I fully support this bill.

Dawn Dibble
Self/cottage baker
Gilmer, TX

I support all the SB 829 entails as a cottage baker! This is my main source of income for my family and having these changes would allow me to grow my business even more!

Lisa Long
Self
Richardson, TX

Passing this bill would allow so many more cottage bakers to make more items, take their home address off the label to allow for safety and privacy, and allow for us to make so many more items to sell thus increasing our chance to earn a living wage off our hard work. Passing this bill would help so many people out.

ASHLEY HAUGH
Self- teacher and cottage food seller
San Antonio, TX

Please pass SB 829, giving more freedoms to cottage food sellers, raising the income, and allowing for wholesaling.

Thomas Treffert
Self - Legal Professional
Gun Barrel City, TX

Sad to think that California may be ahead of Texas on removing unnecessary government regulation, especially where this is scant evidence of any effectiveness other than burdening the most basic of personal liberties. I can find headlines for mass injury and harm for heavily regulated commercial food production, but nothing about throngs dropping dead from bake sale pumpkin pies.

I have spent decades eating and enjoying "cottage foods" as well as farm eggs and meat shares. My health has only improved because of it. I have always resented the extra work, time, and cost involved in sourcing these products, imposed by well-intentioned but ill-informed government "helpfulness." Please humbly admit that current regulation is too broad, or relegate me and my ilk to dying at the hands of the wayward home cook, but please pass this bill and remove at least a modicum of government intrusion into my daily life and my personal decisions of what to eat and whom to trust to provide it.

Thank you.

Natalie Walker
Self
Cleburne, TX

Please keep the cottage bakers address off our labels for ourselves and family's safety.

Michelle Garcia
Self, Sugar Artist
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. This bill will help me out and other cottage bakers tremendously. I've had restaurants who asked to resale my cupcakes, unfortunately we can't do that. This been will give me the opportunity to go to those restaurants and begin a wholesale relationship. This opens up so many opportunities for my small business. One day I hope to open a brick and mortar but, for now, this is a HUGE step in that direction. Please consider all of us Texans who support this bill and pray for it to pass. Thank you.

Robert Garcia
Self
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. Thank you

Sheila Parsley
A small cottage food business owner
Huntsville, TX

This is an important bill for us. Please put your full support behind it so your fellow Texans can better support themselves.

Chris cashion
Bake me away
Fort worth, TX

I would love to keep my personal address off of my product as well as sell my wonderfully and amazing cheese cakes. Thank you kind person.

Jacob Richardson
Self. Student
Katy, TX

I fully support the Texas food operation

Cheryl Richardson, Mrs
Mrs Richardson's Kitchen
Katy, TX

I full support thé legislative change on the Cottage food law

Hillary Painter
Self
Fairview, TX

This bill would tremendously help me in my business. I am all in favor of this bill passing

Wendy Escobar
Self
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill! I am a stay at home mom with a cottage food business that pays for my children to go to preschool. The changes in this law will help me do that better and safer while still maintaining safety for my customers.

Marlene Thiessen
Self
Seminole, TX

Please help to eliminate the address from cottage law for home businesses. Also allow us to sell refrigerated items.

Teddi Estrada Rhea, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please please consider taking our addresses off our labels for cottage law. In this day and age where people are sketchier then ever, it's frightening having to add our addresses on our products! Thank you

Diedra Amaya
Local growers and farmers
Rockport, TX

It's important to TX values to support local farms and small businesses. While protecting the safety of consumers is important, it's also valuable for the public to use public opinion and capitalism to build businesses. Do not tax or legislate the local growers and food producers out of business!

Kazuko Goto
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

This bill would greatly help breadding my cottage food production operation. I would really appreciate if this bill is passed.

Melissa Harris
Self, home bakery.owner
La Grange, TX

With this a bill passing, it would mean the world to so many home bakers around Texas. I would love to be able to raise the minimum amount that we can make in a year and then also having the option of displaying our address on our labels. Thank you!

Morgan Polly, Mrs
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill

Paula Garza, Home baker
Self
Dallas, TX

I hope you will consider allowing cottage bakers to sell wholsale.

Chris Masters
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill, it's good for Texas small business please pass it!

Virginia Tidwell, Owner,Baker
Self, baker
Pottsboro, TX

Please vote this bill through for all of us working in the cottage bakery arena. Thank you!!!

Raul Ibarra
Self
Deer Park, TX

I'm in support of this bill and increasing the amount allowed by this bill. It would help out so many individuals in building up their small business especially during this economic session.

Susan Kerbage
Cottage baker
Austin, TX

We need to feel protected in our work. Plae take away the requirement of posting our home address on our baked goods.

Andrea Byrd
Self /Project Manager
Coppell, TX

Please pass this bill.

Courtney Pearson
Self Cottage Baker
Brownwood, TX

I ask that you please pass bill SB 829 allowing people like myself in Texas a greater freedom with our food production. Texas has a long, rich, and storied past of being pioneering and independent. It's the spirit on which Texans pride themselves. It's that spirit that most cottage bakers I know, including myself, use as we try to provide a way to either supplement our income or just have some income. However, cottage bakers have been highly restricted with what they've been able to do, and so I ask that we be given that independence again. SB 829 would allow us greater control and freedom with our foods we can offer (thereby increasing our income) and would allow us a greater sense of safety by not having to share our home addresses on our labels. Cottage bakers are the people living next door, sitting across from you during Sunday church service, standing in the same grocery store lines, etc. as you. Cottage bakers are largely women trying to support themselves. Both I and my aunt have had a difficult time finding full time employment since Covid; baking for the public has allowed us to "keep the lights on" for which we are grateful, but we are quite limited in what we can offer under the current restrictions. We have had to turn down orders where customers have requested items like cheesecakes, therefore losing the chance to earn a bit more money. They take their business elsewhere, be it a large store selling unhealthy mass-produced food items or someone who doesn't follow the rules and/or doesn't even have a food handler's registration. Every single time I've turned orders down and explained the current cottage laws, customers have remarked how ridiculous they feel the laws are because it is common sense that refrigerated items be kept refrigerated. Are there people who don't understand how food safety and refrigeration work? Absolutely. However, I refuse to believe that is the majority of the people and voters in Texas. Cottage bakers and the majority of their customers fully understand what to do.

Additionally, this bill allows us an added layer of safety so that we don't have to disclose our address on food labels. Again, cottage bakers are predominantly women. Listing our address on labels allows people to know where we live. We obviously can't screen every person who buys an item from us. They can buy the knowledge of our home address for the cost of a cookie, and we lose our safety if that falls into the wrong hands.

Again, I ask that you pass this bill. Entrust the citizens of this great state to make informed decisions on the food they choose to consume and help protect the cottage bakers by keeping their personal home addresses as they should be, which is private.

Emmalyn Purcell

Self

Victoria, TX

Madam chairwomen and members of the committee. I'm Emmalyn Purcell from Victoria County, supporting senate bill 829.

Thank you for making cottage food business possible, and for considering these amendments to the cottage food bill. This bill would open many doors for people like me, both as a cottage food operator, and as someone with celiac disease.

Coming from a small town, it is often very difficult to find allergy friendly foods, much less foods that are safe from cross contamination. Right now there is nowhere to get fresh gluten free rolls, donuts, or pastries in our area. So stopping by to get coffee and donuts with friends is not an option. For many small coffee shops, and cafes, it is simply not feasible to have a dedicated space to prepare these foods, but cottage food operators from allergy families already have kitchens that are safe. So as a consumer, it would be amazing if local businesses could carry labeled cottage food products, especially since most of our major stores have stopped offering them, and the few foods you can get are often very expensive, and not as tasty.

From a business standpoint, I have several friends who own local shops who've asked how to supply their customers with gluten free muffins, cookies, cinnamon rolls, etc. While it is not cost effective for me to set up a pop up stand to sell maybe 2-5 muffins in a day, baking in advance gives me the opportunity to deliver products to the owner who can sell them as needed. All of a sudden that becomes a valid option, benefiting the cottage food operator, the business owner, the customers, and the local economy.

Another part of the bill that would be extremely beneficial, is the ability to safely sell time and temperature controlled baked goods. Many states already have this in place, and have seen it pay off for both consumers and cottage food operators. Every year around the holidays I am asked if it is possible to buy gluten free ganache cakes, fruit filled pastries, etc. because those items are slim to none in our area. Being able to sell those items directly to consumers would significantly increase access to those sought-after allergy-free items.

All in all these amendments would open many doors for consumers and cottage food operators alike, as they are able to safely expand both the types of products they sell, and how they put those products in the hands of customers.

Amanda Bonds

Self, cottage pastry chef

ROCKWALL, TX

I personally don't like placing my personal address on my products as a cottage baker. I feel like it could lead to a safety issue with a customer. It would be nice if this passed.

Sandra Ritten

Self

Prosper, TX

Please pass this bill.

Liz Torrance

Self

Fulshear, TX

Retain current rights

Elva Cabrera
Self, accountant
Pasadena, TX

I support the cottage food production operations.

Keanan Halla
Self / cottage baker
Azle, TX

I support this bill.

Rachel Mendoza
Self
Forney, TX

I support this bill

Carrie Dillon
Self, chocolatier
DeSoto, TX

Please free up our communities to thrive and help individuals build income as many jobs disappear due to technology. Please free up the independent industry that makes American so wonderful! Vote to reform these cottage industry laws!

Samantha Bullis-Moya
Self
El Paso, TX

I am speaking on my behalf and hoping that you can change those requirements of "no Refrigerated" food items or "no soaked pastries- such as flan, tiramisu, etc" and hope that this can change we are able to create itema/pastry items that have more or a broad range of items than what we are restricted from making. I can only speak for myself and I know I went to to culinary school to become a Pasyry Chef and our techniques are so specific and we require a lot of work, but its only to have the best outcome of the items. How you create the pastries is amazing and I feel like we should be able to show those skills and open and broaden that expansion so we are able to do and sell them. Please help us cut out some of these restrictions Texas has on us.

Kim Loftin
Self/Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

Please pass this bill.

Monique Gardner
Le Bon Cookie Co
Brookshire, TX

Please pass this bill. Many small home based businesses would benefit from this. Allowing us to make more money sell certain refrigerated foods would slow us to expand our businesses and support our families after some very hard years! Thank you!

Erica Guerra
Self
Alvin, TX

I would like this bill passed so my small business can expand. With the limitations now, I am not able to offer my baked goods to sell at a bakery or restaurant unless I have permits or a commercial kitchen. This bill would bring in lots of opportunities and would help my business grow so that in the future we can perhaps open up a brick and mortar.

Ashlee Williams
Self
Celina, TX

Being able to sell my products wholesale and ship nationwide, would allow incredible growth for my small business. Please allow this bill to pass so we get help out all the small businesses to grow. Thank you!

Cindy Kaale, Mrs
Self (retired educator) Home baker
College Station, TX

Please pass this bill. As a home baker under the Cottage Food Laws, it would be great to be able to expand my options like adding cheesecake and baked custard deserts. Having the ability to sell wholesale would allow me expand my business. I usually sell single order decorated cakes, cookies and deserts. Now that I have retired, I will be slowly adding selling at markets. If I was able to sell my baked items wholesale, it would expand my places to sell and increase my options and profits. Another benefit of the bill is the ability to keep my home address private. Please show your support of home bakers and pass this law. Thank you.

Brandi Hall
Self, baker
Dallas, TX

I support the amendments this bill makes to the current cottage food law. They open up more opportunities for our small businesses and increase our safety and privacy. Please vote in favor of it.

Caszandra Rios
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support allowing Texas cottage food producers to expand their offerings to wholesale and increase the sales cap to 100K. Excited to be able to buy and sell cheesecake too!

Amanda Moore
Self
Denton, TX

I support this bill!

Debbie Perez
Self
Haltom City, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Heather Shade
Self -cottage food producer
Bullard, TX

Please pass this bill! We in the cottage food industry are significantly limited by the current status of each item listed in this bill. The passage of this bill would continue to meet the safety needs of the general public while allowing cottage food producers 1.) increased home security, 2.) the ability to better provide for their families and 3.) to relinquish their fear of the unlawful threat of local authorities interfering with their public sales by insisting on local permits in order to do business.

Kathy Rios
Self
Castroville, TX

I think refrigerated items like cheesecake should be allowed to be sold. And a home address should be optional.

Deadre Arden
Owner, Pumppernickel Bakery
Longview, TX

Please help thousands of Texas small business hard workers by voting to pass this cottage bill. Every change is reasonable and in line with many other states. Please give us a chance to do what we love even better. Help us survive. Help us grow.

Christine Kemp
Self
Troup, TX

Please pass SB 829!

Frances Nash
Self/Baker
Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill.

Brenda Allen
Self farming
Breckenridge, TX

This bill is essential to cottage food industry and many items in farmers markets. Support entrepreneurs in Texas. PASS THIS BILL.

Aurora Adams
Self
Marshall, TX

I support thus bill

Taylor Ray
Self (entrepreneur)
Lake dallas, TX

I support this bill

Tina Shedd
Self
Rowlett, TX

Passing this would give great opportunities for small home baking business. I am in the beginning stage of making this happen knowing I could mail also wholesale would make it much easier to have steady income coming in for someone taking care of adult child at home

Christine DiGiorgio, Small Business Owner
Self
Arlington, TX

SB 829 passing would be very beneficial for Texas Cottage Food Producers for the following reasons:

1. Raising the cap to \$100,000 would allow these businesses to better provide for their families. It would also allow those whose goal is to open a brick and mortar location, to save more money and incur less debt giving them a better chance at success.
 2. Removing the home address labeling requirement would increase the safety and security for cottage food producers who are often working at home alone.
 3. Allowing certain refrigerated baked goods would enable cottage food producers to diversify and be more competitive in the marketplace.
 4. The ability to wholesale cottage foods would not only provide cottage food producers with a new revenue stream but also give their clients (often other small businesses) hundreds of new suppliers from which to choose.
 5. The definitive clarification that cities and health departments could not require permits from cottage food producers would remove an unnecessary burden from thousands of small businesses.
- Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important bill.
-

Mayara Fonseca
self Business owner So Good Brazilian Treats
Austin, TX

I support this bill as a cottage food business owner and after about 4 years at Farmer's Markets and can't grow my business because of all this limitations. We work honestly in Austin, following all the health protocols. Removing adress from labels it's also safety for us, since we're 80% women.

michelle holmes
Hazel's Kitchen
Coppell, TX

I support this bill. If passed, this will help grow our business. Thank you.

Beatrice Alba
Self
Pasadena, TX

I support

Wendy Mims
Self-cookier
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill!

Chris Thibault, Mr.
Farmer's Market
Mineral Wells, TX

This is important to all the small farmer markets in the area and needs to be passed. Please support this bill and help out the local people.

Arif Panju, Managing Attorney
Institute for Justice
Austin, TX

Dear Chair Klick and Members of the House Committee on Public Health:

The Institute for Justice ("IJ") submits these comments in support of SB 829. IJ is a nonprofit, public interest law firm that works to protect civil liberties, including economic liberty. We have helped cottage food producers nationwide reform laws that arbitrarily limit the sale of homemade food. We support this bill because it will reduce needless regulatory barriers to buying and selling locally made food in the state.

Cottage food businesses are a way for entrepreneurs with big dreams but little capital to start small in their own homes without having to spend thousands of dollars on professional equipment and commercial kitchen space. Nearly every state across the country recognizes these businesses as job creators and revenue generators, but the state's regulatory approach is pushing this business model out of reach for many in Texas.

At IJ, we have studied the effects of cottage food businesses on local economies and communities and researched food safety. We have consulted experts, reviewed CDC data and followed up with health departments in states that have expanded their cottage food laws. Our research confirms that cottage food is inherently safe for producers and consumers and that cottage food businesses help stimulate economic growth in their communities.

SB 829 brings much needed reform for the state's cottage food producers. First, the bill raises the state's revenue cap for cottage food producers from \$50,000 to \$100,000. In recent years, many states have raised or lifted revenue caps recognizing it is counterproductive to cap people's income. Today, 31 states and the District of Columbia do not cap producers' sales. This makes sense, as revenue caps were originally intended to limit cottage food producers' volume of sales, but volume is already limited by the size of their kitchen. A low revenue cap undermines the ability of producers to grow their businesses and use their homes as a steppingstone to opening brick-and-mortar stores.

The bill also lifts other unnecessary restrictions on cottage food sales in the state. It allows producers to sell baked goods requiring refrigeration, which will expand the products producers can sell, and it expands the venues where cottage food can be sold. Seven states—California, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming—have the broadest cottage food laws in the country. These laws give cottage food producers and consumers the freedom to buy and sell the homemade food of their choice, including perishable food. Many of these laws have been in effect for years, and to date there have been no confirmed cases of foodborne illness related to food sold under these laws. Indeed, Wyoming's law has received national recognition for safely increasing access to local food and opportunity.

Simply, SB 829 is an important way Texas can reform its cottage food law to support economic opportunity and local food.

Jenine McClaney
Self small business owner
Arlington, TX

I'm in support.

Connie Gelineau
Self
Garland, TX

Writing that I am in favor of this bill to pass.

Ereka Humphrey-McGinty
Self/Cottage Food Baker
Highlands, TX

I support this bill. It would benefit so many who have had to self-employ themselves after the pandemic. As well as stay at home mothers and those who just need to make extra income. PLEASE pass the bill. Thank you so much.

Zarita Landry
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please pass bill SB 829

Patricia Martinez
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Please pass this bill.

Thomas Alba
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

H.L. Fahnestock
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please pass this bill to help support Cottage Bakers in Texas.

Carrie Byrd
Myself
Rockwall, TX

I believe this should pass!

Cesar Ibarra
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill

Lori Rosenstein
Kendra's Kreations
Mansfield, TX

Help small businesses like this wonderful, established business that services our area in Mansfield, Texas.

Jody Addy
Hamby Homemade
Abilene, TX

Please pass this bill! I produce cottage food and know several others who do. Please help us make our businesses more responsive to market demands and better able to sustain our families. My business adheres to the current law and would embrace the additional opportunities this bill brings! THANK YOU!

Traci Johnson
Self- Educational Diagnostician
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill.

Angela L Davis Henry
Self
DeSoto, TX

I am in support of SB 829! As a cottage baker this bill provides more opportunities to expand my business. Please vote yes!

Katy Kauffman
Self
ALLEN, TX

I support this bill

Jennifer Apodaca
Self
Clint, TX

Hello, the passing of this bill is very important to me and my community. As a cottage baker who follows the rules on what can be sold it is very disappointing that we have such restrictions set in place and lose customers to those home bakers who don't follow the cottage food laws. Its disappointing that there are no repercussions to those who disobey. I chose to do it the right way and have lost plenty of sales in my community because being in a border town the number 1 dessert requested is tres leches which I have to decline the sell. We should have the ability to sell without disobeying set rules. We take the food handlers, know about the safety of cross contamination, keeping foods at its appropriate safety zones so why not pass this bill? There are plenty of customers who don't care because they go to those home bakers who don't know the law, don't have food handlers and it doesn't stop them. You can easily find how many people order items not approved items and don't care. They just want what they want and are either satisfied with the taste or not. So why not pass this bill and let the customer decide whether or not they buy? Why not give us law abiding citizens the same chance to make such sells knowing we follow and know the rules? Why not bring the hammer down on those who don't follow the rules instead of making difficult for us who do? For some of us it's our livelihood to have customers and it's disappointing and frustrating when you lose your customers to someone who sells those non approved items. Also, In the world we live in today our home address being easily accessible to anyone is such a risk for our families and our safety. Would any of you be comfortable having your home address easily accessible to the public? Probably not, so why have that set in place for us? Does our safety not matter? Does our livelihood not matter? All we are asking for is the same opportunity as those who don't follow the rules. Is that so much to ask for? Leave it up to the customer.

Thank you!

Benjie Skur
Texas Cottage Bakers/self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill.

Meredith Cochrane
Merci Cookie Co.
Dallas, TX

I support this bill

Natalie Benitez, Mrs
Self, house wife
Wallis, TX

Please pass this bill

Lenita Valdez
Remarkable Desserts
El Paso, TX

I support this bill.

Samantha Peterson
Self, contractor
Texas City, TX

I support this bill.

Angelina Deamaral
Bake house
Wills Point, TX

I support this bill.

Sarah Izzi
Self, cottage food baker
Katy, TX

I support this bill fully. One of the things I love most about Texas is our freedom to work in and with our community, and the support that small businesses receive. The passing of this bill will allow me to expand my business and livelihood in ways I never thought possible. I am primarily a stay at home mom who runs a cottage food business. I want to continue to do that so I can be home with my children, but I have expanded my business as far as I can under the current cottage food law. SB 829 would allow me to continue to grow my business while also allowing me to be the best primary care giver I can for my children. Please pass this bill. It is a slam dunk with Texas voters! Thank you.

Lezlee Cheek, Mrs
Self
Mabank, TX

Make it easier for cottage industries to make money, less regulations, increase the amount they can make.

Amanda Pippen
City of Garland Health Department
Garland, TX

I am writing to strongly encourage the defeat of SB 829 as it is currently proposed. I am specifically opposed to allowing the sale of cottage food in retail food stores and food service establishments. Cottage food products are produced in private homes that do not undergo a health inspection from a public health entity. There are no requirements dictating the conditions in which these food items are prepared. By not allowing time/temperature controlled foods to be produced in homes, there is at least a lesser risk than foods that support the growth of pathogens. SB 829 proposes to allow these higher risk foods to be produced without food safety checks and sold in a retail environment. Consumers assume that buying packaged food at a store carries some level of safety. This will not be the case if these cottage foods, which could be prepared in a home with 50 cats walking on the countertops, is allowed to be sold in a retail food establishment. Please do not expand the current freedoms of the cottage food law.

Shanique Wright-Collins
self
Dallas, TX

please pass this bill.

James Scales, Mr.
Orange County Environmental Health and Code Compliance Department
Orange, TX

I do not agree with the cottage foods being sold outside of the current scope from producer directly to consumer. Daily as a Health Inspector, I see the struggles that most brick and mortar businesses face with inflation and the struggles of keeping customers coming back. I feel this bill will destroy some businesses here in my community and I feel it would jeopardize public health by allowing cottage food businesses the opportunity to sell without regulation, permits or over-site as most food service operations have to abide by.

Elizabeth Menzies
Surprise Me Bakery
ENNIS, TX

Please pass this bill. It would be so helpful for my bakery, as well as many other cottage bakeries.

Jacob Alba, Mr.
Self/ Terminal Operator
Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

MK Cheney
Self - Maker
Seabrook, TX

I strongly support this bill. Please pass it! Thank you.

Sally Martin
Self
Houston, TX

Yes i would like this law to pass, I think a lot of people would benefit from this

Irai Molina
Self
Killeen, TX

I fully support this bill for the safety of makers.

Mary Philio
Self
Huntsville, TX

This would help baking entrepreneurs to grow & be more independent, without turning to government for help. In a time of economic uncertainty, cottage bakers should be able to expand their businesses to be able to help themselves & their families while providing products that are increasing in demand.

I ask that you please pass this bill so we can continue to grow as independent business owners.

Jill Pullen
Self retired educator
Texarkana, TX

Due to rising inflation and other economic factors , it is difficult to make a profit with current laws and restrictions. Therefore, it is important that we reform and update current laws.

Ashley Danley
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote in favor of SB 829 to provide increased freedoms to cottage bakers. This bill will enhance opportunities for cottage bakers, improving local economies, while also providing increased safety to bakers who understandably may not feel comfortable sharing their home addresses with anyone who purchases their goods. Passing this bill into law would maintain safety for consumers while helping the cottage bakers of Texas to have better control over their safety while expanding their businesses to better serve local consumer needs.

Nata Porter
self
DeKalb, TX

I support this bill. Please pass this bill.

Sarah Ambrow
Self
Kingsville, TX

I support this bill as it provides me more income in this rising inflation economy to provide for my family. And removing my address would provide me a secondary safety net.

Deanna Copeland
TEHA
PEARLAND, TX

Please do not pass SB 829. This bill undermines food safety regulations and poses serious risks to foodborne illness from cottage foods.

I worked in local public health food safety programs for 25 years. Food businesses do not intend to make their patrons sick, however foodborne illness continues to affect 1 in 6 people in the US and kills over 3000 each year!

The current cottage food laws allow for a variety of business models while maintaining appropriate safe food limits of home kitchens. My own step daughter has a cottage food business.

Increasing the cap on income for cottage food businesses will tempt businesses to exceed the capacity safe food of their home to provide large quantities of cottage food. The refrigeration units, ovens, and counters in an average home kitchen cannot safely support the increased income cap. This in turn will lead to unpermitted home additions to create space outside of the home kitchen, which is where cottage foods should be made.

I urge you to keep the restriction time/temperature control for safety as currently written in 437.001. Home kitchens are intended to support a family, not support a retail business. Home kitchens are in homes where pets, children, babies, and potentially pests are. These potential sources of contamination, along with limited space for maintaining safe food under temperature control will cause foodborne illness. Cottage foods are sold in areas where constituents are less likely or unable to seek medical care if foods have produced illness.

The limitation to keep time/temperature control for safety foods from being produced in cottage food businesses must be maintained to prevent foodborne illness. The Texas Food Establishment Rules have entire chapters dedicated to the safe handling of time/temperature control for safety foods based on science.

Lastly, the changes to Section 437.0192 must be removed from this bill. This section will further 'muddy the waters' in the regulatory web that public health must follow. This section blurs the line between a food manufacturer that is licensed by Texas DSHS and cottage food when food is changing hands and not sold directly to customers from the cottage food business that manufactures the food. Local food safety staff are already faced with hostile situations at local fairs, markets, and events when working to keep consumers safe yet this rule will add additional stress and confusion to the gray area that is cottage food business.

Robert Henry
Self - IT
DeSoto, TX

I support SB 829. Please pass this bill.

Monica Dicianni
Self
Kerrville, TX

Please strongly consider passing SB829. As a cottage producer who is striving to have our own storefront one day we would achieve those goals much more quickly with less restrictions on what we can offer our clients. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Kevin Ambrow
Self
Kingsville, TX

I support this bill. Please pass it

Andrea West
City of Fort Worth
FORT WORTH, TX

I oppose this bill that would allow baked foods that require time and temperature controls to be sold under cottage foods exemptions. The bill would jeopardize public health as there will be no way for the foods produces at private homes to be regulated to ensure the foods are being kept at proper temperatures to limit pathogenic growth.

Richard Cochrane
Self - Attorney
Dallas, TX

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to voice my support for SB 829. My wife is a home-baker with a growing business. SB 829 would allow her to grow her business and protect our family's privacy.

Specifically, the bill allows for the increase in annual income and broadens resale opportunities. Not only will these changes help individuals provide for their families, but they will also enable the growing number of home entrepreneurs access to wider markets. Ultimately, this is good for the small business and the consumer.

SB829 also removes the requirement that a home address must be included on the label. This change would protect the privacy of cottage industry families while still providing adequate protections to consumers; the law still requires the disclosure of major allergens, a method to contact the cottage business operator, and the fact that the product "is made in a home kitchen and is not inspected by the Department of State Health Services or a local health department."

I ask you to please vote "YES" to SB 829.

Respectfully,

Richard A Cochrane
Attorney
Dallas, TX

Juan Garza
Self
DALLAS, TX

I am asking for the passing of SB 829 to update the Texas Cottage Food Laws to increase sales cap to \$100k per year, home address on labels optional w/ DSHS registration, adding refrigerated baked goods to the list of allowed foods, allowing wholesale for cottage foods, and clarifying that cities and health departments may not require permits of cottage food producers. Though in majority of cases civil government should ONLY be involved when a third party is transgressed upon, the passing of this bill will remove some of the civil government obstacles that have kept citizens from freely earning a living and making it easier for cottage bakers to conduct business with citizens, neighbors, community, within their neighborhood and culture around them. The addition of Cottage bakers to our neighborhoods, and their right to provide services and make an income for themselves that citizens - out of their own pockets - willfully and financially bless bakers for making good quality food, makes it easier for citizens to make an extra income for themselves and will increase their quality of life. The passing of this bill will help relieve the current burden in our laws for cottage bakers. Cottage bakers should be free to bear the fruit of their own labor without the burden of civil government. Cottage bakers are hard workers that ought to be able to earn the fruit of their labor without the burden of civil government, and as much as this alleviates the burden, I am for it. Please pass SB 829. [When you shall eat of the [a]fruit of the labor of your hands,
How blessed will you be and how well will it be for you.] - Psalm 128:2

Kristen Smith
Self
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill

Cindy Ginn, Mrs
Self
Cypress, TX

We need more choices when it comes to food. Folks that have small food businesses shouldn't be burdened by all the regulations. Please pass this bill. Please help small business and the public by giving us more options.

Amber Costantino
Self/Sweet Charlie's Bakeshop
Brownsville, TX

I urge you to please pass this bill! As a cottage baker, these changes would be instrumental in expanding my home business. It would also provide a little bit more of security if we don't have to have our home address on our labels. Ties exchanges would help so many home bakers. Please consider passing this bill! Thank you!

E Myers
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please allow passing of this bill. There are many reasons this would benefit those utilizing Cottage Laws. Most importantly is physical safety for seller and the current requirements that must include your address. For my safety and my family's safety I need this bill to pass due to physical safety reasons. I do not currently sell until this bill passes due to valid threats one might have made against them. Making this comment under an alias for my safety as I know this is public. Please allow me to have a career selling things under Cottage laws and also allowing my physical safety to not be threatened by current stalker.

Tamara Burttschell
Lizzie Sweetilicious Baking
West columbia, TX

i vote for the bill to be passed

Matthew Smith
Self
Austin, TX

I'm writing in support of changing the existing Cottage Food law to not require the creator to be present at the point of sale. While requiring the creator to be present may provide a sense of protection, it does not. There is no reason that a cottage food creator can't have a trusted relationship with a vendor (farmer's market, coffee shop, etc.) to sell their goods on their behalf. Either the vendor is following good practices or they aren't. Allowing the creator to not be present will allow them to target different avenues which can allow for a better growth trajectory. And let's face it, we all know that there are existing cottage food industry creators that are probably already skirting the current law and we have not heard of any ill effects. Thanks for your support!

Gail McCabe
Self
La Vernia, TX

Please support this bill.

Gail McCabe
Self
La Vernia, TX

Please support this bill!!!
