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Ohio House Agriculture Committee

To whom it may concern:

I have been a cottage baker in the Cleveland area for the past 14 months. What started as a way to take a break from my corporate job has transformed into a nearly second full-time job for me. Current cottage law allows me to bake most of the items I enjoy on a regular basis, with a few exceptions. Compared to some other states, Ohio's current cottage law is fairly reasonable — real butter in our frosting, chocolate covered candies, and dry baking mixes.

Since I have 2 elderly cats in my house, I am unable to obtain the home bakery license which is highly desirable when advertising to customers. The cost of renting a commercial kitchen is cost prohibitive, and I'm not yet established enough to justify the cost of my own commercial kitchen. The proposed microenterprise home kitchen license would allow me to be inspected regularly and expand my current offerings. For me, this would be fresh fruit and cream cheese fillings, fried donuts, and custard pies.

In conclusion, this house bill expands opportunities for Ohio home bakers like myself, while removing the cost barrier that many of us have when trying to produce refrigerated items.

Sincerely,

Candice Howard