

Elizabeth Sund

In support of: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 23-09.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cottage food transactions.

February 3rd, 2025

North Dakota has some of the best cottage food laws that support local small businesses while protecting consumer safety. I am grateful to operate my home bakery in Minot, North Dakota, and I find the current regulations to be very reasonable. Removing the restriction on shipping and telephone/internet transactions would further solidify North Dakota's position as one of the very best places to start a cottage food business.

There are many North Dakota cottage food operators that make products perfect for shipping, such as snack mixes or shelf stable cookies. Lifting shipping restrictions would help bring money to the state, because there's constant demand for shipping out of state. I currently turn down all shipping requests, but it would be amazing to accept those orders.

However, I'm torn on whether the restriction on consignment should be lifted if it opens the door to wholesale. My concern is that without interacting with the producer directly or reviewing their website, the end consumer might not realize the item is made in an uninspected home kitchen. Of course, the food operator will label the items as required. But I think most people expect items sold by consignment to be made in an inspected commercial kitchen.

The restrictions on phone/internet sales and shipping should definitely be lifted, but the restriction on consignment should be considered separately. Lifting all three would be wonderful, but I recommend adding new wording prohibiting wholesale of cottage food products if the restriction on consignment is lifted.

Thank you for your consideration. North Dakota's cottage food program has opened amazing avenues for me to pursue entrepreneurship, and I look forward to growing my business under the improved regulations.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sund
Sundbakes Home Bakery
Minot, North Dakota
District 38