

Dear Committee Members.

My name is Mariia Kolomeitsev. I am writing to formally request that North Dakota reconsider its current cottage food regulations to allow cottage bakers to ship their products out of state. Currently, 35 states permit cottage food businesses to ship their goods across state lines, while North Dakota remains excluded from this opportunity. This restriction limits economic growth, entrepreneurial opportunities, and consumer access to locally made baked goods.

Cottage bakers in North Dakota operate under strict state guidelines to ensure food safety and quality. Many of these small businesses have established strong reputations, and the demand for their products extends beyond our state borders. However, the inability to legally ship products places North Dakota's cottage bakers at a competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to supporting local businesses.