

My name is Jason Sawyer, a spouse of a cottage baker in the Minot, ND area.

Cottage Food businesses have been seeing widespread growth over the last several years. As such, the codes and regulations regarding their function have needed to adjust with the changing times. In North Dakota, this is indeed the case. Although there is considerable bandwidth for cottage bakers to run their operations with the best practices of the industry, reform is still vital for this business sector. Further amplifying this need is the fact that many of the bakers are spouses of military members or oil field workers who have moved to North Dakota from other states with varying cottage food laws. As they look to grow their businesses, they are often reliant on clientele bases that they established in previous locales.

As a husband of a cottage baker previously described, the propositions leveled with SB 2386 relating to interstate commerce for cottage food operations will be nothing but beneficial for bakers in the state of North Dakota, whether they recently moved here or have lived in this great state their entire lives. I believe in empowering small business entrepreneurs with the greatest level of autonomy in using their best judgment for sound business decisions—not only at the local level but also regarding interstate commerce.

I request your support for this bill that will provide decisive backing for the small businesses of North Dakota. Thank you for taking this testimony into consideration and I look forward to the decision of the committee.