

Jenetta Sawyer
Jenetta's Simple Treats LLC

Chairman Luick, committee members, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jenetta Sawyer and I am the owner of Jenetta's Simple Treats, a cottage bakery located right outside Minot in the small town of Surrey. My husband was recently stationed at Minot AFB, and though our family has only been here since September of 2024, North Dakota and Minot already feel like home. As a military family, we are no strangers of change, adjusting our lives to fit within our new areas, and finding our place within communities. And I am happy to report, since before we arrived, our local community has been nothing but welcoming, supportive, and ready to help in anyway possible. This has truly been the best community of all of our duty stations.

My business was founded in July of 2022 while we were stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada. In just over a year in September of 2023, my son and I relocated to Florida where we called Eglin AFB our home while my husband commissioned and did additional training. Then in September of 2024, we moved yet again here, to North Dakota. In less than 3 years, our multiple moves have allowed me the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of local and state Cottage Food Laws within a variety of states.

According to Chapter 23-09.5 in the state of North Dakota, a cottage bakery is defined as an "individual who produces or packages cottage food products in a kitchen designed and intended for use by the residents of a private home". North Dakota has one of the friendliest sets of Cottage Food Laws in the country. In North Dakota, we are *allowed* to use traditional buttercream, we are *allowed* to use cream cheese frostings, we are *allowed* to use fresh fruits, we are *allowed* to participate in markets and events, we are *allowed* to provide samples that are prepackaged or on display, and we are not subject to inspections of our home to start our home business. These are some major wins compared to other states!

However, according to 23-09.5-02 Section 3a, "Transactions under this section may not: involve interstate commerce", which refers to not being allowed to ship goods in or out of the state of North Dakota. [HHS ND Cottage Food Outline](#)

According to Castiron, which is a platform that many food establishments use within their business, 35/50 states allow shipping in and/or out of state, yet North Dakota is not on that list. [Castiron Article](#)

As a military family, I have had the privilege and opportunity to bake in three different states: Nevada, Florida, and North Dakota, each with their own Cottage Food Laws that I have had to abide by. And North Dakota has been the best to bake yet!

However, with North Dakota not allowing shipping, it creates a difficulty for many cottage bakeries who are already established in the state and those who are inbound. With North Dakota, and focusing on Minot, we have a large oil and military presence. Many incoming cottage bakeries are already established and trying to market to a new community and state.

When we move from state to state, we are losing loyal customers. It takes us longer to regain and build within the community as we seem brand new to our new clientele. I would like to point out that this shipping law *only* applies to cottage bakeries. This *does not* apply to commercial or store front bakeries as they have a different set of rules and regulations they abide by..

By adjusting the current Cottage Food Laws and allowing cottage bakers the ability to ship goods and products in and out of state, we will be creating more balanced businesses within our own community. Families like mine would be able to continue to serve communities outside of North Dakota while we work tirelessly to rebuild in our new locations, continue to have income flow during our transitions, and have the ability to scale our business both in and out of state. Personally, I feel the benefits are endless.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. I hope that by it, you too may see how much of an impact this chance can have on the other Cottage Bakers and their families within the state. I ask for your support of this bill that supports military families and small businesses like mine. Our family is thankful to be here in North Dakota and to call it home for as long as we can.