

Ashley Janssen

Ashley's Sweet Treats Minot

February 5, 2025

Subject: Support for Expanding Cottage Food Shipping in North Dakota

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a constituent, military spouse and a small business owner in Minot ND to urge your support for legislation that would allow cottage food businesses in North Dakota to legally ship homemade baked goods across state lines. Currently, North Dakota's cottage food laws enable home bakers to sell directly to consumers but restrict shipping, which limits economic opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs like myself.

As a cottage food baker, I take great care in ensuring the quality and safety of my homemade baked goods. Many other states have adapted their regulations to allow for safe interstate shipping, providing small businesses with a greater customer base and economic stability. Expanding North Dakota's cottage food laws to permit shipping would help local businesses thrive, create jobs, and boost the state's economy—all while continuing to uphold food safety standards.

As a military spouse, I face relocations, making it even more essential to have a flexible and sustainable business that can operate successfully no matter where we are stationed. I have many customers and family from other states that would love to support my business. Unfortunately, current restrictions prevent me and others like me from shipping our homemade goods, limiting our ability to grow our businesses and support our families.

Many states have successfully modernized their cottage food laws to permit safe and regulated shipping, helping small businesses reach broader markets while maintaining food safety standards. By allowing cottage food entrepreneurs in North Dakota the same opportunity, we can strengthen our local economy, support military families like mine, and promote small business growth without unnecessary barriers.

I respectfully ask that you support or introduce legislation to update North Dakota's cottage food laws and remove restrictions on shipping. This change would provide military spouses and small business owners the ability to expand their businesses and remain financially independent despite the unique challenges we face.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Janssen