



CITY OF HEALDSBURG CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

The City of Healdsburg is supportive of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations in Sonoma County. We encourage Sonoma County to opt into AB 626, the Homemade Food Operations Act. AB 626 allows cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) permit to sell food made in their home kitchen.

We believe MEHKOs offer an opportunity for people to become small business owners, share their culture with their neighbors, and make money from the comfort of their own homes. Additionally, MEHKOs offer an entrance into the food industry, which traditionally has a high barrier to entry.

This permit helps build healthy, resilient communities and create economic opportunities for the people that need them most. Cooks from underserved communities— primarily women, immigrants, and people of color—can now use their skills to generate extra income or incubate a new food enterprise. Without the fear of fines, thousands of existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

Finally, this permit helps protect consumers and improve public health standards. Home food operations must be inspected by local health inspectors and operators must follow a set of health, training, and sanitation standards just like any other food facility.

We encourage Sonoma County to opt into this opportunity as soon as possible.

For these reasons, we support the implementation of AB 626, Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations, in our County. Thank you for your leadership in helping bring this opportunity to cooks and their communities!

Sincerely,

Leah Gold
Mayor, City of Healdsburg