



May 14, 2020

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

The City of Cotati 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 Permit (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 program helps build healthy, resilient communities and create economic opportunities for the people that need them most. Cooks in our communities 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 program 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Wendy Skillman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wendy Skillman
Mayor