



October 21, 2021

Sheryl Bratton
County Administrator
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive, Room 104A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2431

Re: Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations

Dear Sheryl,

Thank you for reaching back out to the cities with the proposal to run a limited pilot program for 2 years, with up to 5 microenterprise home kitchens (MEHKO) per supervisorial district.

On October 12, 2021, the Cotati City Council discussed the proposed limited pilot program. The City Council is supportive of the goal of lowering barriers to new entrepreneurs and empowering disadvantaged communities, but the City Council is unable to support a program using the current MEHKO statute.

The majority of the City Council believes that the MEHKO statute would create the potential for significant nuisance issues by essentially allowing a commercial use in our neighborhoods with limited ability to address issues for surrounding residents. Issues such as noise, odors, hours of operation and traffic potentially associated with MEHKO's would be difficult to manage with our limited code enforcement staff. Also, once a pilot program is started, it will most likely be very difficult to pull it back and close these businesses if they are problematic.

If an alternate county-based program is not feasible, the City would also support efforts to amend the legislation so that it addresses our ability to manage impacts in our neighborhoods while achieving the goal of opening up business opportunities to our residents.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'John C. Moore'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John C. Moore
Mayor

Cc: City Council