

# HB 2509: Arizona's Homemade Food Law

## Bill Facts & Personal Stories from Producers

As Arizonans recover from the pandemic and policymakers look to rebuild the economy, home-based food businesses can create jobs and expand access to local food, especially in rural and minority communities. These small food businesses have low startup costs and provide budding entrepreneurs—like farmers, single parents, and immigrants—with the flexibility and capital they need to support their families and their dreams. But, current policy restricts homemade food producers from selling the food of their choice.

Although Arizona allows people to sell a limited variety of homemade foods, current law prohibits the sale of perishable food, including any baked goods or treats requiring refrigeration, and many well-loved cultural dishes like elotes, tacos, and tamales. Without sensible legislative reform, vendors' only option is to operate in the shadows, lacking the protections they need to earn an honest living.

Increasing the accessibility and flexibility of selling cottage foods is especially important to our rural, female, disabled, and Latino populations—whether to earn supplemental income, continue important cultural traditions, or start businesses to support their families. According to research, 83% of cottage food producers are women.

**HB 2509 expands the varieties of foods that home-based food producers may sell and makes it easier for Arizonans to buy, sell, and consume the foods of their choice.**

Please support HB 2509, which will:

- Expand a safe, successful program that has been on the books for over a decade.
- Allow homemade food to be sold allowing producers from all walks of life to pursue their dreams as they see fit.
- Guarantee that home-based foods are protected at the state level, while arming consumers with the knowledge they need to buy delicious, home-cooked meals.
- Bring Arizona's laws up to speed with neighboring states like Utah and California, which both allow the sale of prepared foods and meals with great success.

# Personal Stories

from Arizona Homemade Food Producers

## Alison McKee, Phoenix, AZ

"As a kidney transplant recipient, I have always tried creating a source of income for our family without too much exposure to the public and germs! Covid solidified that we had made the right decision in creating a meaningful life, while protecting my health. I recently attained my cottage food license to expand on my home based business and offer my artisan sourdough breads to the public. However, my real passion is cupcakes! I refuse to sell cupcakes with "buttercream" frosting made from shortening. It's gross! The expansion of foods permitted under the cottage food bill will allow me to make beautiful, delicious, AND healthier cupcakes made with real buttercream."



## Chel Lewis, Surprise, AZ

"I love making tamales for friends and family, as well as a variety of baked treats. This would mean so much to my family who relies on cottage food. From tamales to baked goods, we always put out a quality product. Unfortunately, we have had to discontinue offering many services due to the restrictive laws currently in place. Making tamales is a family tradition that has been passed down from generations—it allows me and my family to spend time together, provide for ourselves, and share traditions."



## Jennifer Stone, Phoenix, AZ

"I'm currently starting a small business called Desert Moon Bakery. Baking and owning a bakery has been a passion of mine for years. By starting my home bakery, I'll be able to provide income for my family, be present for my children and community, while still working towards my dreams. If HB2509 is passed, it will greatly help my business. I'll be able to provide more delicious and healthy options to customers. I'll have higher profits and business traffic because of these options and hopefully be one step closer to opening a brick and mortar location someday. This bill means a lot to me and is very exciting for home bakers and chefs all over the state."



## Albina Hunt, Phoenix, AZ

"I make a variety of foods, including tamales, enchiladas, baked goods, and more. I would love to sell red chile enchiladas as well as tamales, but due to the limitations of the current cottage food laws, I am only able to sell certain types of breads and cookies. Being able to make and sell foods from home helps to bring in additional income for my family and I am able to share great tasting foods at a reasonable price to my community. It has always been a dream of mine to make comfort food with ingredients that I can trust, in the comfort of my own kitchen and sell to my community at an affordable price. If this bill is passed, it would put me one step closer to those dreams coming true, help me do what I love full time, bring in an income to support my family, and own a 100% legitimate business."

## Gabriela Flatt, Chandler, AZ

"I sell custom decorated cookies and macarons. Selling my baked products from home means so much to me because I get to do what I am passionate about. Since I get to do it from home, I get to be with my son who sees how hard I work, and this inspires him to work hard, too. I used to sell tarts and decorated cakes in a bakery near my home, but due to high rent costs, the bakery closed and I lost the ability to sell my products from home since they include perishable ingredients. This dramatically decreased our possible income and as a result I have to continually turn down clients because I can only sell shelf stable items. If this bill passed, I would be able to say yes to my clients and continue to show my son that if you work hard enough, you can achieve your dreams."



## Pam Rovida, Wickenburg, AZ

"I live in Wickenburg, a small, rural town and there is a need for caterers. Most of the very limited restaurants that are in our town do not offer catering services. If this bill passed, it would not only help my husband and I earn extra income, but most importantly, I could care for him best from home as he has many medical needs and frequent doctor's appointments. Expanding my business would also help our community with its need for catering services and keep more tax dollars in our town by allowing local business to grow."

## Jeanette Petersen, Gilbert, AZ

"I make French macarons and sourdough bread. I'm so glad AZ has a cottage food program in place that has allowed me to sell cottage food products and make money. Having samples tested in Tuscon required time and money to be able to sell the best version of my products that I could. Expanding the cottage food bill would allow me to add variety to my current products as well and expand into cheesecakes, cream puffs, eclairs, cream cheese frostings and fillings, custard pies, and so much more. With two kids in college and one more who will be graduating from high school in two years, air conditioners that need replacing, and all other planned and unplanned expenses in life, being able to sell more would hopefully provide a cushion to help meet those future expenses for my family. I love the flexibility that being a home baker provides."



## Julie Reis, Mesa, AZ

"I'm an Arizona cottage food baker who specializes in custom decorated cookies, drop cookies and a few other non-cookie confections. Being able to operate my business from home has opened endless doors, most importantly giving me a post-retirement business opportunity. Through my cookie business I've been able to supplement our retirement income and make some wonderful friends along the way. Being able to add items to my menu that people have been requesting, but have been illegal thus far, would be another step forward in my business. Baking has been part of my family for generations and I would love to be able to share our cherished family recipes like peanut butter pie, coconut cream pie, Italian cream cake and "dirt" cheesecake (no actual dirt...just Oreos). As an Arizona cottage food operator I am hopeful that our law will be expanded so we can offer our customers more of what makes them love our home based business!"

## Melissa Glover, Page, AZ

"As a small kettle corn business run by a husband and wife team, this food bill is very important to us. Because we are so far from many supplies and resources, it's already difficult to operate, but being a small town with even less resources, we are unable to find a commissary kitchen to help expand our offerings. This food bill would allow us to provide even more options for our small town, which struggles with limited food truck and vendor offerings."



## Symone Cloy, Goodyear, AZ

"I have been baking for a long time and for the past year, I have been steadily starting my own business. This is incredibly important to me because I want to be able to sell sweet potato pies, pumpkin pies, and pre-made doughs, as well as custard pies and fillings to cakes and cookies that require refrigeration. This business has been my dream for so long. I know the law change would help not only me but so many others across the state."

## **Patrick Haran, Hereford, AZ**

"As a small homestead, selling homemade foods of all types is a core part of our ability to sustain ourselves. Our experience at local markets and just talking with the community is that they want more local foods and want to support their friends and neighbors. If we could allow people to do what they are already doing safely everyday I believe this would only help everyone. More families could support themselves legally, more consumers can get the homemade quality food they want, and more money flows through the local economy."

## **Kali Martinez, Yuma, AZ**

"If this bill passes, I can expand my business and sell a larger variety of items and use more quality ingredients instead of having to stick to shelf stable options! My kids are special needs and holding down a regular job isn't an option, this gives me the freedom to make my own schedule and make my kids a priority every time! Please! Give us the power and responsibility to do more with our businesses and hold ourselves accountable! We can do this! This is literally the American dream!"

## **Tammy Torres, Florence, AZ**

"I've been baking and cooking since I was very young. I had a storefront bakery and a cottage food operation when I lived in California 5 years ago. Here in Arizona, butter is not allowed in buttercream frosting which is strange because it's allowed in so many other states. If this law is passed I would be able to make my cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting and help support my family. I would also like to make other recipes."

## **Kathy Bigar, Peoria, AZ**

"Signing this bill would help so many families grow and expand their businesses. It would also give them the opportunity to use healthier and better tasting ingredients."

## **Grace Moyle, Apache Junction, AZ**

"I've been baking and cooking since I was very young. I had a storefront bakery and a cottage food operation when I lived in California 5 years ago. Here in Arizona butter is not allowed in buttercream frosting which is strange because it's allowed in so many other states. If this law is passed I would be able to make my cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting and help support my family. I would also like to make other recipes."