



April 18, 2017

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: AB 626 (E. Garcia): California Retail Food Code: microenterprise home kitchen operations
As Amended April 6, 2017 – OPPOSE
Set for Hearing April 25, 2017 – Assembly Health Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wood:



The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), and Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) regrettably must OPPOSE AB 626 by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, which would allow for the sale of food directly to consumers from private homes.



Local public health and environmental health departments work diligently to prevent and reduce community exposure to foodborne illnesses. We have tremendous concerns about the preparation of potentially hazardous foods in home kitchens. Cooking, cooling, and reheating foods, as well as ensuring appropriate hot and cold temperature controls, is challenging in a commercial kitchen even with staff training and appropriate equipment and facilities. This danger increases exponentially in a home kitchen.



When food is purchased by the public, they expect it has been prepared within a legal framework to prevent pathogens. AB 626 broadens our cottage food law in a way that would put the public at risk.

Furthermore, the operation of these enterprises in residential neighborhoods raises a host of other issues relating to trash, parking, noise, wastewater, septic sizing, water sources, fire hazards, and ADA accessibility, making enforcement and oversight difficult for a number of local governmental entities

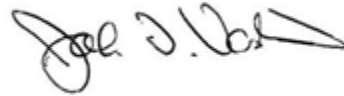
including local health departments, planning and building, fire services, and public works.

It is for these reasons that we must oppose AB 626 (E. Garcia).

Sincerely,



Cara Martinson
Legislative Representative
California State Association of
Counties (CSAC)



Jolena Voorhis
Executive Director
Urban Counties of California (UCC)



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cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
John Gilman, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus