Food Freedom Laws

State Legislation to provide relief from state food safety oversight
County Democratic Hot Dish Charity

Former Rep. Al Juhnke, MN  Most Famous for his Hot Dish Bill

“If the county health agency is going to close down the county Democratic Hot Dish Charity event, they better be prepared to respond.”

Introduced the ‘Hot Dish’ bill, which exempted state/county food safety oversight from charity events.

“I’m a legislator. If they don’t want to take my calls, I’ll file legislation.”
Texas Cookie Freedom Bill

Senator Jane Nelson, TX

Took the Cookie Freedom bill and modified it into a Cottage Foods bill

“A woman started a small cookie business, selling cookies at the Capitol. She had no permit or license, but I didn’t want to see her go out of business.”

Introduced a ‘Cottage Foods’ bill, which was an update of the previous session’s ‘Cookie Freedom’ bill.

“Rather then providing a blanket exemption, I want small food producers to get training from the state on how to prepare food safely.”
Michigan Cupcake Bill

Senator John Proos, MI

Cupcake Bill

“A couple of single moms started a cupcake business, selling at farmers’ markets. They couldn’t afford the cost to be licensed and permitted, so the state wanted to shut them down.”

Introduced the ‘Cupcake’ bill, which allowed for small, ‘cottage food’ producers to operate without a license.

“Once I filed the bill, the state health department worked with me to identify non-hazardous foods that could be exempted from food safety oversight.”
Food Freedom Laws

Wyoming Rep. Tyler Lindholm

Expansion of the Food Freedom Law to include more foods

“This act is a home-run. Wyoming’s local food options have exploded and we still have had 0 foodborne illness outbreaks due to this Act passing into law.”
# Food Freedom v. Cottage Foods

## Food Freedom
- Almost any Food may be sold, including Hazardous Foods (i.e., meat products)
- Direct between Producer and Consumer (i.e., Farmers' Markets)
- Few or no Limits on Size of Operation
- Must be Labeled as not being Inspected

"This product is made in a home kitchen that is not inspected by the state or local health department."

## Cottage Foods
- Hazardous v. Non-Hazardous Foods
- Small, ‘Cottage’ Food Production
- No Internet Sales
- Must be Labeled as not being Inspected
For More Information:

Doug Farquhar, JD

Program Director for Environmental Health
National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver, CO

Doug.farquhar@NCSL.org