



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 626** (Garcia) – As Amended May 2, 2017 - **OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzales Fletcher:

The County of San Bernardino is writing in opposition of AB 626, microenterprise home kitchen operations. This bill would allow for the sale of food directly to consumers from private homes and could present new challenges to our local public health and environmental health departments.

The causes of foodborne diseases include, among other things, bacteria and bacterial toxins, viruses, and parasites. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases in the United States. In California, between 2013 and 2015, there were 3,235 illnesses, 149 hospitalizations and three (3) deaths of which 354 reported and confirmed illnesses and 16 hospitalizations arose from food prepared in private residences. Furthermore, in San Bernardino County, over the past two years, more than 700 foodborne illness complaints were received by our Environmental Health Division. The passage of AB 626 could lead to an upsurge of complaints, hospitalizations and deaths due to foodborne illnesses.

Additionally, the operation of these enterprises in residential neighborhoods raises a number of other issues relating to parking, noise, wastewater, and fire hazards, making enforcement and oversight difficult for local governmental entities including local health departments, land use services, fire services, and public works.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes AB 626. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Lovingood".

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee

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