

**David Mead - RE: please pass this bill**

**From:** "Brown, Elaine" <browne@anr.msu.edu>  
**To:** Tamanna Mohapatra <tmohapatra@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 5/19/2010 9:27 AM  
**Subject:** RE: please pass this bill  
**CC:** "Hamm, Mike" <mhamm@anr.msu.edu>, "browne@msu.edu" <browne@msu.edu>, "dmead@house.mi.gov" <dmead@house.mi.gov>

Dear Tamanna,

Thank you for your interest in the cottage food bills.

After the legislative hearing May 5, 2010, some 30 people/organizations volunteered to participate in the workgroup that the legislators wanted. This group is working on a fast track in 6 hour meetings to review the language and through consensus suggest clarifications to get back to the legislators by the first of June. The suggestions that the legislators except will then become part of the bills and I hope they will be passed into law.

MIFFS Council expressed support for the concepts in these bills last year and no group or individual serving on this workgroup has opposed the bills.

If you have specific language concerns, please let me know and I can pass them along to the workgroup and MDA who is recording the work of the workgroup.

Have a great day,

Elaine Brown

Executive Director  
Michigan Food & Farming Systems--MIFFS  
172 Natural Resources Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824

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[www.miffs.org](http://www.miffs.org)

**From:** Tamanna Mohapatra [mailto:tmohapatra@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:00 AM  
**To:** Hamm, Mike; browne@msu.edu; dmead@house.mi.gov  
**Subject:** please pass this bill

The Cottage Food Bill of Michigan – like similar measures adopted by 12 other states – marks a crossroads in the local food revolution here. If it passed, the command-and-control industrial food system fueled by government subsidies and run by government inspectors to benefit large corporate food interests would be excluded from the most vibrant and diverse grassroots portion of the local food revolution.

The Cottage Food Bill represents the development of true food democracy – a local food system based on face-to-face transactions, diversity of products produced locally, and core values embedded in a hand-shake compact between producers and consumers. The raw milk movement represents another example of this kind of food democracy.

The Cottage Food Bill represented something more. For dozens, hundreds of Michigan families facing hardship in increasingly desperate financial times the bill offered them a way to supplement their income, producing food for their neighbors.

Amanda Edmonds of Ypsilanti's Growing Hope organization told the committee the story of an unemployed woman who began such a business and grew it into a now inspected business that employed six people. The Cottage Food Bill would actually work to promote small-scale entrepreneurship, not just talk about it like a distant island we all want to visit someday.

The benefits of this kind of local food production go far beyond financial survival. Cottage food production would enable stronger community ties – building

connections and resilience in a time when both are needed desperately in Michigan.

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----“One doesn’t discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.”---ANDRÉ GIDE----

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of looking at things.”---HENRY MILLER

“Destroying rain forest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal.”---  
Biologist E. O. Wilson

**David Mead - support**

**From:** E Sigler <esigler1@gmail.com>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/18/2010 4:38 PM  
**Subject:** support

**1**

of bills HB5270 and HB 5837

**From:** "Gordon Alderink" <aldering@gvsu.edu>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>, <mikehuckleberry@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/18/2010 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** Cottage Food Bill (HB 5270 and HB 5837)

Dear Sirs

I want to encourage you to support the Cottage Food Bill legislation. I think these bills are important for a couple of reasons: 1) encourages the growth of a healthier food industry and culture and 2) encourages the growth of local, small economies.

Healthier food can only be a positive in a time when the citizens of Michigan are part of an unhealthy epidemic that includes childhood obesity and diseases such as diabetes mellitus.

The establishment of cottage industries will be a positive thing for the citizens of Michigan because it can promote local economies and pride in the communities.

I understand that the fate of these bills make be decided behind closed doors, with the decision left in the hands of institutions that oppose the bill for economic reasons. Leaving decisions in the hands of people with ulterior motives is not good. Furthermore, not allowing for public discussion and a vote in the legislature goes against democratic ideals.

Please consider supporting these bills and speak out against any process that is anti-democratic.

Thank you.

Sincerely  
Gordon Alderink

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Associate Professor  
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## David Mead - Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837.

**From:** "Bill Krick" <billkrick@comcast.net>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/17/2010 5:25 PM  
**Subject:** Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837.

I support Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837.

Sincerely  
Bill and Wendy Krick  
231-747-6966  
1762 Jefferson St.  
Muskegon MI 49441

**David Mead - support bills 5780 &5837**

**From:** Helen Coverdale <rhelen5@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/17/2010 10:09 PM  
**Subject:** support bills 5780 &5837

Dear Mr. Mead,

I urge you to support bills 5780 and 5837. It support my right to buy local and know something about the quality of the food I buy for my family. This issue to me is like free speech. Please try some foods sold by the local farmers. The flavor and quality is superior to what I buy at any store.

Thank you,

Helen Coverdale

**David Mead - Voicing my support of House Bills 5780 and 5837**

**From:** Lindsey Merkel <lindseymerkel@gmail.com>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/17/2010 11:45 AM  
**Subject:** Voicing my support of House Bills 5780 and 5837

Dear David Mead and to whom it may concern,

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I am writing to express my support Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837. High quality, sustainably produced fair food is a must for human survival. Please support our future by supporting these bills. The Farm Bureau and MDA are wrong to oppose these bills. Please explore the evidence and find the truth: that our local food systems need the support of these legislative measures.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Merkel  
Marshall, MI

**David Mead - Pass legislation..**

**From:** <polimom4@comcast.net>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/17/2010 10:13 AM  
**Subject:** Pass legislation..

to improve school lunches. Out with junk and in with organic fresh local food. Breaking news this morning research links pesticides use with ADHD. Teach students sustainability!

## David Mead - cottage food bill

**From:** Angie Young <ary-40@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <mikehuckleberry@house.mi.gov>, <dmead@house.mi.gov>,  
<browne@msu.edu>, <mhamm@msu.edu>  
**Date:** 5/17/2010 8:46 AM  
**Subject:** cottage food bill

Just wanted to let you know I am in support of the cottage food bill and would appreciate you showing support also.

Thanks,  
Angie

The New Busy is not the too busy. Combine all your e-mail accounts with Hotmail. [Get busy.](#)

**From:** William Ahee <bb4013@wayne.edu>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/16/2010 8:19 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837

Hello Mr. Mead,

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I am e-mailing you in support of Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837, which I believe will not only support the start-up of small businesses, but will also encourage more money circulating within the local economy.

As an Assistant Manager at the Wayne State Farmers Market, we hear a great number of requests for the types of items that these bills would allow small farmers to prepare themselves. At our market, we only allow local farmers, keeping the money circulating locally. This is particularly important when it comes to SNAP benefits, as we are able to pump federal dollars into the local economy.

I strongly support these bills and see them as a major step forward in the support of sustainable, local food systems which create jobs and keep the money circulating in Michigan.

Thanks,  
William Ahee  
Detroit Resident

**From:** <chrysta\_faye@riseup.net>  
**To:** <MikeHuckleberry@house.mi.gov>, <dmead@house.mi.gov>  
**CC:** <browne@msu.edu>, <mhamm@msu.edu>  
**Date:** 5/16/2010 10:56 PM  
**Subject:** HB 5780/5837

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To all those who are considering HB 5780/5837: the Cottage Food Bills,

I would ask you please to consider voting in favor of passing HB 5780/5837, as the opportunity to make a major contribution toward food security and food diversity is within your realm.

I write to you as a mother, a wife, a voter, a student, a world traveler, a community organizer, and a person whose family lost their livelihood on the farm back in the 1980's.

I grew up eating Hostess Cupcakes, and all the other processed foods that were all the rage of the 80's. We wanted to get away from downhome cooking, but as we learn, we are finding that how we eat is having a huge impact on our health. Today we know that diabetes is directly related to corn syrup, and to intake of processed foods, as well as the huge increase in childhood obesity.

I am thrilled to have a farmer's market in the neighborhood, where I can purchase jams made from local berries, and artisan cheeses from local cows. Not only am I sure that supporting local business is a great aid to our struggling economy, but I am sure that I am getting healthier and more vital food. The passing of HB 5780/5837 will ensure that I have greater access to foods that are local and I am supporting local farmers, growers, and businesses.

The time is now to make the decision to pass HB 5780/5837, we want it and we deserve it. Give the people of Michigan the right to do what they are good at: for many families facing hardship in increasingly desperate financial times the bill offers them a way to supplement their income, producing food for their neighbors.

Food is a powerful issue, and I expect that you will vote in favor to protect our right to food democracy and our viability to get through this terrible economic situation.

Thank you very much for you time!  
Chrysta Coronado  
registered voter Kent County  
326 Union Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI

**David Mead - Michigan House Bills 5780 & 5837**

**From:** Vicki Berglund <vickiberglund@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <dmead@house.mi.gov>, <robertjones@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 5/17/2010 9:16 AM 2  
**Subject:** Michigan House Bills 5780 & 5837

Dear Legislators:

I believe our food security depends on taking a stand for the values that will sustain us: democracy, transparency, accountability and a commitment to small business and free choice. "Food safety" has become a smokescreen for the effort to put down demand by consumers for local foods and the opportunity to become food entrepreneurs.

These identical bills (one Republican, one Democratic) establish "cottage food operations" that produce "baked goods, jams, jellies, candy, snack food, cereal, granola, dry mixes, vinegar and dried herbs" as "exempt from the licensing and inspection provisions" (of the 2000 Food Law) as long as the food is (1 only sold at farmers markets, homes, farm markets or roadside stands, county fairs, town celebrations, festivals and events and (2 annual gross sales do not exceed \$15,000.

Bills similar to HB 5780/5837 had been introduced in two previous legislative sessions. The May 5<sup>th</sup> hearing before the Michigan House Agriculture and Tourism Committee marked the first time this proposal had received a formal hearing.

The bills were quietly opposed by the Farm Bureau and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) on the grounds that "cottage food" products posed unfair competition to food producers who, in the words of the Farm Bureau representative at the hearing, "follow the rules."

The MDA opposed the bill because it posed an "unwarranted hazard" in a time of increasing food contamination incidents around the nation.

**There is virtually no evidence that local food production sold directly to consumers has caused any health problems.** Michigan citizens are smart enough to follow common sense food safety precautions.

In spite of this and a flood of constituent communications to legislators in favor of the "Cottage Food Bill", its future passage was anything but certain.

The Cottage Food Bill of Michigan – like similar measures adopted by 12 other states – marks a crossroads in the local food revolution here. If it passed, the command-and-control industrial food system fueled by government subsidies and run by government inspectors to benefit large corporate food interests would be excluded from the most vibrant and diverse grassroots portion of the local food revolution.

The Cottage Food Bill represented something more. For hundreds of Michigan families facing hardship in increasingly desperate financial times the bill offered them a way to supplement their income, producing food for their neighbors. The Cottage Food Bill would actually work to promote small-scale entrepreneurship, not just talk about it.

The benefits of this kind of local food production go far beyond financial survival. Cottage food production would enable stronger community ties – building connections and resilience in a time when both are needed desperately in Michigan.

Aside from the Farm Bureau (whose farmer members would be among the principal beneficiaries of the new law) and the MDA who opposed the new law, two Michigan groups that have local food systems in their mission took no position on the Cottage Food Bill at the hearing.

Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems had a representative present but took no position either in favor or opposition to the bill.

The other group – the CS Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems – did not have an identified representative present. The CS Mott Group had recently hosted the development of a statewide Good Food Charter that included provisions that appeared to support Cottage Food production. Yet, it too shied away from open support.

The immensely powerful industrial food corporations are attacking “sustainable agriculture and food systems” in legislative bodies in Washington and in state capitals across the country. MIFFS and the CS Mott Group have a lot of funding and access at stake. Their hesitation is understandable, but not acceptable.

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I urge you to support Michigan House Bills 5780 and 5837.

Thank you,  
Vicki Berglund  
1219 Cherry St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008