



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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**Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Support of HB 5516, An Act Providing
Food Entrepreneurs With Access To Commercial Kitchens
Before the Commerce Committee**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

10:30 p.m. in Room 1D

There is great interest in the potential of home kitchens producing local food for sale to the community. I have previously sponsored bills to allow the practice of home baking in Connecticut, commonly allowed in other states. The CT Department of Public Health has opposed such legislation, causing the legislative committee of cognizance to kill the bill. Constituents are unable to afford the installation of a commercial kitchen in their home that would meet DPH requirements, but are eager to sell small batches of home-baked goods to other community members who are eager to buy.

This bill offers a different approach to removing this obstacle in the form of a commercial kitchen to be used in a cooperative way by any small community baker. I hope the committee will recognize the growing success of local food producers and act to remove the obstacle to home-baked goods, a potential cottage industry for our state.