

# Montana Environmental Health Association



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February 14, 2014

Cort Jensen,  
Montana Department of Agriculture  
302 N Roberts  
Helena, MT 59601  
[cojensen@mt.gov](mailto:cojensen@mt.gov)

RE: House Bill 630 public Comments

Dear Mr. Jensen,

The Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to send written comments as part of the public meeting process for HB 630. MEHA is a nonprofit group of professionals who work to protect public health in ways that are related to our everyday environment. Many of our members work in the fields of food safety, public accommodations, drinking water protection, wastewater treatment, air quality, solid waste disposal and public health complaints. Our membership is comprised of professionals who are registered sanitarians, engineers, hydrologists, environmental consultants, and health educators.

The Montana Environmental Health Association has met with its partner agencies, the Montana Public Health Association and the Association of Montana Public Health Officials, to discuss HB 630. Specific items of focus were cottage food operations and inconsistencies and inefficiencies in Montana's food laws that could be improved.

In addition, MEHA surveyed its membership and forwarded the survey to all sanitarians across the state. The survey consisted of questions regarding the principles of cottage food operation and inefficiencies and inconsistencies in current retail food statute. This information was used to develop/finalize MEHA's House Bill 630 - Guiding Principles, which is attached as part of our written comments. The document is divided into two parts. The first is a discussion of the cottage food industry. The second is the modernization of the retail food statute in general.

Please accept these comments as part of the growing body of information gathered to identify important concerns and issues related to HB-630.

Sincerely,

Laurel Riek, President Montana Environmental Health Association  
Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department

Enclosure: House Bill 630- Guiding Principles