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To: [Hartmann, Joan](#); [Hart, Gregg](#); [Lavagnino, Steve](#); [Nelson, Bob](#); [Williams, Das](#)
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Subject: How about some consistency?
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Importance: High

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Dear Supervisors,

Whereas, our organization has always generally supported a level playing field for home-based businesses and less overwrought regulation of the business community, we are a bit shocked by the micro-cooking ordinance that you in the process of approving.

Why?

Three reasons.

1. We don't believe the county did an adequate outreach on this subject, including the fact that you will be approving the same for cities. Do you recall the person from Santa Maria who got caught making cheese in his bathtub for sale to markets? SM has a problem and this is not going to help.
2. The unlevel playing field with restaurants and caterers who are required to have a COMMERCIAL GRADE kitchen.
3. The annoying double standards as it affects other home/property uses that have less impacts on the neighborhood.

Examples:

As you know, wineries with commercial grade kitchens have only obtained a temporary pass to serve food due to the machinations of the covid lockdown. Why would they not qualify for the twice weekly 30 person restaurant style permit at a minimum?

Then, we have the vacation rental by owners debacle. Most of these owners rent their homes to people who cause no problem whatsoever in the neighborhood, but the county did not welcome this use....one reason? Parties! Well, if somebody starts a restaurant in their house every Friday and Saturday night, do you think that won't raise the same issues as VBRO as it relates to traffic, noise, etc?

And, how many of these onsite meals will involve alcohol being served? Will these home based restaurants be required to obtain an ABC permit?

I recall P and D shutting down a business involving a guy repairing motorcycles in his barn.

And, then we have the case of Steve Decker wanting a greenhouse on ag zoned land.

Or, how about weddings at a house or ranch?

Before you pass this, we urge you to take a much broader look at the inconsistencies in your approach to regulating business operations in homes and on ranches.

Finally, in view of your obsession with CEQA, how did this project get a pass?

Please hold off on the second reading of this ordinance, scheduled for March 9, until these issues have been thoroughly vetted with the business community and our local city jurisdictions.

[House Turned Restaurant: Santa Barbara County Cooks Can Sell Home-Cooked Meals - The Santa Barbara Independent](#)

Andy Caldwell
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