



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

May 10, 2023

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,  
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 3, Substitute House Bill No. 1500 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to increasing the cap on gross sales for cottage food operations."

This bill revitalizes the cottage food program and ensures that the annual gross sales cap is maintained with inflationary adjustments. Cottage food products are important for Washingtonians, and I applaud the merits of these updates.

Section 3 requires that sufficient full-time equivalent staff are maintained to ensure timely processing of permits and to provide improved service levels. One additional full-time staff position was funded in the final budget for this purpose, which satisfies the current state of "sufficient" support. However, requiring the maintenance of sufficient staff regardless of funding puts the Department of Agriculture at risk of needing to reduce higher priorities if appropriations are reduced in future biennia.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 3 of Substitute House Bill No. 1500.

With the exception of Section 3, Substitute House Bill No. 1500 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Inslee  
Governor