



April 14, 2022

The Honorable Lena A. Gonzalez  
Capitol Office  
1021 O Street, Suite 7720  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

*RE: SB 972 (Sen. Gonzalez) - Support*

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

Small Business Majority writes today in support of SB 972, which will remove barriers to accessing food vending permits by modernizing the California Retail Food Code (CRFC). The legislation will bring thousands of micro-entrepreneurs into a more equitable and well-regulated food economy while enhancing critical health and food safety regulation.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth. Our work is bolstered by extensive research and deep connections with the small business community that enable us to educate stakeholders about key issues impacting America's entrepreneurs.

Street vending allows entrepreneurs—many of whom are immigrants and/or low-income individuals—to run a business without extreme overhead costs and add vibrance to their communities. For decades, sidewalk food vendors have added culture and convenience to communities across California. However, many of the most popular and iconic street foods remain under a de facto ban due to outdated and exclusionary regulations.

SB 972 modernizes the CRFC by reducing the barriers to obtain a local health permit, which will support food vendors, opening up economic opportunities for low-income entrepreneurs and improving food safety and public health for consumers.

It's widely known that low-income communities of color have been hit the hardest during the pandemic. These are the same communities that, due to limited employment opportunities, have historically struggled with job scarcity. For this reason and more, we support SB 972 and what it will do to support the small business ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bianca Blomquist".

Bianca Blomquist  
California Policy Director  
Small Business Majority