

## A Resolution to Promote [County Name] Local Food Economy

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the opportunity to harness consumer spending on food to bolster the sustainability of local farms and fisheries, support economic development, job creation and help address diet-related health concerns; and

WHEREAS, consumers are demanding locally produced foods and food producers are responding positively to this increased consumer demand; and

WHEREAS, the demand for locally produced foods has not been diminished by a weak economy; and

WHEREAS, there is significant potential for local food and farming businesses to be an economic development engine in North Carolina, particularly in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, North Carolinians spend about \$35 billion a year on food; and

WHEREAS, if individuals spent 10 percent of their food dollars on local foods, approximately \$3.5 billion would be available in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, county governments have an important role to play in supporting their local food systems; and

WHEREAS, county governments control budgets that allocate funds for food service in schools, jails and medical centers; and

WHEREAS, county governments set policies to procure local foods; and

WHEREAS, county governments may commit to purchasing local foods when hosting meetings, conferences and or workshops; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Environmental Farming Systems' **10% Campaign** supports local and regional food economies that benefit local food producers, related businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is working in support of the **10% Campaign** in all 100 counties, including [County name] County; and

WHEREAS, these on-the-ground experts are working with other community leaders, farmers, businesses, parents, teachers and students, many of whom are already working to build the state's sustainable local food economy, from farm to fork; and

WHEREAS, [County Name] County is responsible for promoting economic development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, [County Name] County is responsible for protecting and enhancing the health, welfare and safety of its resident in prudent and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, the people of [County name] County will benefit significantly through the success of the **10% Campaign** through a stronger economy and access to fresh, affordable meats, produce, fish and shellfish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [County name] County Board of Commissioners pledges to access its ability to source local foods and to promote participation in the **10% Campaign** to its employees and citizenship as appropriate to help build the local food economy.