

NORTH CAROLINA
SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF STATE FUNDING FOR
THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES MEAT AND POULTRY
INSPECTION DIVISION**

Adopted March 15, 2011

WHEREAS, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services fosters commerce without compromising safety by conducting daily inspections of 172 North Carolina establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division is the only dedicated resource in North Carolina for industry training courses and provides assistance on labeling, inspection requirements and other aspects of operating a meat processing plant; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 small farmers are now operating under the so-called "poultry exemption" because of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division's outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, the NCDA&CS has registered over 640 meathandlers, of which 440 are small local farmers, to allow the production and packaging of product on site for sale.

WHEREAS, most plants inspected by the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division are small or very small businesses, accepting orders from small farmers and providing product for the rural independent grocery stores and restaurants; and

WHEREAS, we believe continued operation of this division is critical to the growing local foods movement in North Carolina;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council supports the continued state funding of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.