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Economic Development and Infrastructure Subcommittee

1) Support funding for a statewide local foods assessment that provides baseline consumption, production and economic impact information and would inform market development for local sustainable foods.

Data from such a report would assist existing businesses in determining market share and in developing marketing opportunities. It could also help guide investment of public, private and non-profit monies to close gaps in local foods infrastructure related to processing and distribution by encouraging growth in existing companies and supporting start-up efforts. A broad statewide local foods assessment could also be leveraged to assist in recruiting out-of-state companies in the food industry to locate in North Carolina.

A statewide assessment would complement, not replace current efforts that have been directed toward regional assessments. Work in Western North Carolina by the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project has enabled local producers to match growing conditions to demand and consumption in the region. Local communities are then able to leverage resources to achieve positive results in a very targeted manner.

2) The North Carolina Local Sustainable Food Advisory Council recommends limited changes to North Carolina's egg law to allow small egg producers to achieve greater economic returns while adhering to good agricultural and food safety practices to ensure the delivery of safe eggs to their customers.