

RANDOLPH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Randolph County Office Building **m** 725 McDowell Road Asheboro, North Carolina 27205 **m** Telephone 336-318-6300

Darrell Frye, Chairman David Allen, Vice Chairman Kenny Kidd Maxton McDowell Hope Haywood

Resolution in Support of North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Presidential Initiative to Promote Food System Resiliency

WHEREAS, access to heathy food is a basic human need and is vital to the well-being of a community; and

WHEREAS, all 100 North Carolina counties are committed to ensuring the needs of their citizens are being met; and

WHEREAS, food security, defined as reliable access to quality, affordable food is vital to a thriving community and food insecurity threatens the fabric of a healthy society; and

WHEREAS, according to Feeding America's annual Map the Meal Gap study, conducted to improve our understanding of food insecurity and food costs at the local level, the average food insecurity rate across North Carolina's counties is 14 percent. Feeding America projects that the rate will rise to 19.3 percent due to the pandemic and the child food insecurity rate will rise from 19.3 percent to 28.6 percent; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 NCACC Map Book, the food insecurity rate in Randolph County is 12 percent and children living in poverty is 21 percent; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity, according to the Food and Research Action Center, has detrimental and costly effects to mental and physical health such as depression, obesity, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, the current pandemic is only further exacerbating the issue of food insecurity and families are facing difficult decisions about how to make ends meet, including whether they can afford the food they need; and

WHEREAS, according to State officials, agriculture and agribusiness account for 17% of all jobs in the state with an annual economic impact of \$91.8 billion and are a vital aspect of the economy in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Randolph County ranks in the top ten counties in North Carolina in the production of cattle and poultry generating nearly \$230 million in cash receipts; and

WHEREAS, county commissioners have a responsibility to ensure the basic needs of their citizens are met; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), under the direction of President Ronnie Smith, is leading a task force to address food system resiliency to help counties take actions to ensure their resources are getting to the people in need; and

WHEREAS, the NCACC Task Force will be meeting to examine the various issues regarding the creation and sustainability of a resilient food system for North Carolina residents; and

WHEREAS, by supporting our farmers, supply chains, agribusiness, food industry, and food insecure families, we can build resilient communities.

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Randolph County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support the work of the NCACC Task Force, will commit to examining the food system in Randolph County, and will take steps to help strengthen the food system in the service of sustaining a thriving community.

Adopted this 4th day of January 2021.

Darrell Frye, Chairman

Randolph County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Dana Crisco

Clerk to the Board