

# COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

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## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NCACC PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCY

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

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

**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.

**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. And Feeding America projects that the rate will rise to 19.3 percent due to the pandemic.

**WHEREAS**, Washington County has a food insecurity rate of 29 percent;

**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;

**WHEREAS**, it is projected that the food insecurity rate in North Carolina will rise to 19.3 percent due to the pandemic and the child food insecurity rate is projected to rise from 19.3 percent to 28.6 percent;

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

**WHEREAS**, County Commissioners have a responsibility to ensure the basic needs of our citizens are met;

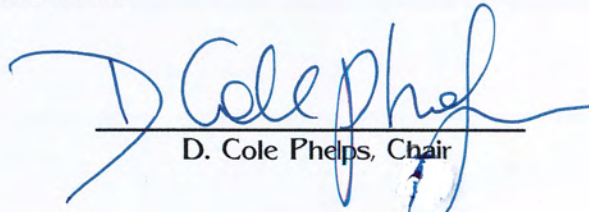
**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), under the direction of President Ronnie Smith will be leading a task force to address food system resiliency to help counties take actions to ensure the resources we have are getting to the people in need;

**WHEREAS**, the NCACC Task Force will be meeting to examine the various issues that go into creating and sustaining a resilient food system for our residents;

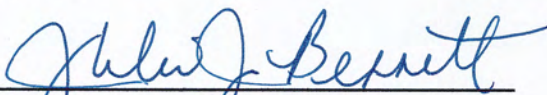
**WHEREAS**, by supporting our farmers, supply chains, agribusiness, food industry, and hungry families, we can build resilient communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Washington County Commissioners, do hereby resolve to support the work of the NCACC Task Force and will commit to examining the food system in Washington County and take steps to help strengthen the system in the service of sustaining a thriving community.

**ADOPTED** this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

  
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D. Cole Phelps, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board

