

RESOLUTION NO. [x]

A RESOLUTION OF THE [GOVERNING BODY E.G., COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY BOARD, CITY COUNCIL] OF [JURISDICTION NAME]

FORMALLY JOINING THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER POLICY COMMITTEE'S LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT CHALLENGE TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH, PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS AND WATERMEN.

WHEREAS, economic and social challenges, such as fluctuations in funding for essential programs, changes in market conditions, and ongoing pressures on household purchasing power, can place significant strain on vulnerable residents, the institutions that serve them, and agricultural producers; and

WHEREAS, the sustained viability of table crop farmers, watermen, and food producers – particularly local and regional producers - is essential for the economic vitality, resilience, and food security of [Jurisdiction Name] and the wider metropolitan Washington region; and

WHEREAS, locally and regionally sourced food is often more fresh and nutrient-dense, offers better quality, and lasts longer than food transported over long distances, decreases negative environmental impacts by minimizing food miles traveled, directly contributing to the health and wellness of our residents, particularly those served by our public institutions and social services; and

WHEREAS, local governments can play a crucial role in maintaining and strengthening the vital connections between our region's food producers and its consumers, businesses, and public institutions; and

[WHEREAS clause identifying relevant jurisdictional work and/or programs]

WHEREAS, leveraging a portion of existing municipal, county, or institutional food expenditure to invest in local and regional food systems represents a powerful, flexible strategy to support local economies and foster environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (the "FARM Committee") has issued a **Local Food**

Procurement Challenge (the “Challenge”) inviting member jurisdictions to formally commit to annually assess and identify opportunities to increase their local and regional food purchases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the [Governing Body, e.g., County Council, County Board, City Council] of [Jurisdiction Name]:

SECTION 1: FORMAL COMMITMENT TO THE CHALLENGE

[The Jurisdiction Name] hereby formally joins the FARM Committee Local Food Procurement Challenge, expressing its intent to engage in the assessment, tracking, and strategic increase of local and regional food procurement across relevant departments and agencies.

SECTION 2: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL FOOD INVESTMENT POINT PERSON

The [Chief Executive Officer/County Manager/Mayor] is hereby directed to designate a qualified staff member to serve as the official **Local Food Procurement Point Person** (the “Point Person”) by [x date – suggested within 30 days of passage of resolution]. This individual shall be responsible for coordinating internal implementation efforts, acting as the primary liaison with the Challenge partners, and ensuring the timely collection and submission of procurement data necessary for tracking progress.

SECTION 3: REVIEW AND INTEGRATION OF LOCAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS

All departments, including but not limited to [Procurement, Senior Services, Parks and Recreation, Department of Corrections, and Public School Food and Nutrition Services], are encouraged to **analyze current food purchasing practices** and to **identify specific investment opportunities** to incorporate local and regional food system priorities into current and future grants, policy initiatives, contracts, bids, and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for food and food services. For the Challenge, regional foods are defined as a product produced from a grower in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia and local foods are defined as a product produced from a grower in the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia. Whenever possible, products shall be sourced that minimize the distance between production and consumption.

SECTION 4: COLLABORATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Point Person and contract managers from agencies that directly or indirectly fund the purchase of food as well as [the Office of Contracting and Procurement] are encouraged to actively participate in the **MWCOG Local Food Procurement Community of Practice** to share experiences, learn about best practices in local procurement, and access necessary technical assistance to ensure successful implementation of this Resolution.



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

SECTION 5: REPORTING The Point Person shall provide an update on the jurisdiction's progress in the Challenge to the [Governing Body] no later than [Date one year from now, e.g., December 31, 20XX].

PASSED AND ADOPTED this day [Day, Month , 20XX.]

Optional Section for Signature Block

ATTEST:

[Clerk of the Council or Board/Governing Body Name]