

House Resolution 22 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

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1 A Resolution encouraging state and local governments
2 to increase the direct purchase of nutritious and
3 healthy food from local and regional producers,
4 including through Iowa's regional food systems.

5 WHEREAS, Iowa's Regional Food Systems Working Group,
6 comprised of 15 geographically based groups covering
7 91 Iowa counties, is a network established in 2003 to
8 support Iowans who are working together to build more
9 resilient food systems; and

10 WHEREAS, each regional group convenes multiple
11 stakeholders, including farm producers, food
12 processors, and other businesses, nonprofit
13 organizations, Iowa State University Extension
14 and Outreach, the Leopold Center for Sustainable
15 Agriculture, resource conservation and development
16 organizations, educational institutions, and other
17 state and local government entities to support local
18 and regional food system development; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2011 Iowa Acts, chapter 128, the General
20 Assembly created the Local Food and Farm Program and
21 the Local Food and Farm Program Fund administered by
22 the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, to
23 support the diversification of Iowa agriculture and
24 Iowa's economy through the development of integrated
25 local food systems to promote the production, sale, and
26 consumption of food grown in Iowa; and

27 WHEREAS, beginning in 2011, the General Assembly has

1 annually appropriated moneys to support the Local Food
2 and Farm Program administered under Iowa Code chapter
3 267A; and

4 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report published by
5 Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Iowa
6 farmers responding to a survey reported a more than 23
7 percent year-over-year increase in food sales through
8 direct-to-consumer transactions such as farmers'
9 markets and community-supported agriculture, as well
10 as through wholesalers and large-volume institutional
11 buyers such as grocery stores, restaurants, schools,
12 and hospitals; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report published
14 by Iowa State University of Science and Technology,
15 larger-scale buyers of local foods responding to a
16 survey reported increased purchases in local food
17 sales totaling more than \$22 million in 2012-2013,
18 with 80 percent of those annual sales made to just 37
19 buyers, for an average of almost \$250,000 in local food
20 purchases per buyer per year; and

21 WHEREAS, according to a 2016 report published by
22 the Union of Concerned Scientists, if all intermediate
23 and institutional buyers in Iowa purchased local food
24 at the same level as survey respondents, more than \$3
25 billion in new economic activity would be generated for
26 the state's economy, supporting 16,997 midsize farms,
27 and supporting 178,000 total jobs in Iowa, including
28 49,000 full-time farm jobs; and

29 WHEREAS, targeted government procurement policies
30 have been successfully used to spur economic growth,

1 increase employment, develop rural communities, foster
2 the creation of value chain partnerships and promote
3 small businesses, including businesses operated by
4 families, young entrepreneurs, veterans, minorities,
5 persons with disabilities, ex-offenders, and others
6 underrepresented within the private sector; and

7 WHEREAS, Iowa has established a successful
8 high-profile precedent for using a procurement policy
9 to promote Iowa agriculture through a commitment at all
10 levels of government to use bio-based fuels; and

11 WHEREAS, in calendar year 2015, 1,110,278 gallons
12 of E-10 ethanol blended gasoline and 169,951 gallons
13 of E-85 ethanol blended gasoline were purchased by the
14 State Department of Transportation for use in vehicles
15 by departmental and local government employees; and

16 WHEREAS, in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014,
17 and ending June 30, 2015, 883,281 gallons of E-10
18 ethanol blended gasoline and 222,294 gallons of E-85
19 ethanol blended gasoline were purchased by a number of
20 other state agencies including but not limited to the
21 Department of Administrative Services, the Department
22 of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and
23 the Department of Human Services for use in vehicles by
24 agency employees; and

25 WHEREAS, the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative
26 instituted by Governor Terry Branstad is dedicated to
27 achieving the goal of making Iowa the healthiest state
28 in the nation; and

29 WHEREAS, government procurement preferences focused
30 on small local food producers will have ancillary

1 benefits, such as increasing the availability of
2 fresher and healthier foods; improving nutrition
3 among populations vulnerable to diabetes, obesity, and
4 other chronic health conditions; reducing negative
5 impacts associated with soil erosion and water
6 pollution; as well as diminishing the use of energy
7 resources associated with damaging climate impacts; NOW
8 THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
10 That the House of Representatives strongly encourages
11 universities under the direction of the State Board of
12 Regents to increase the direct purchase of nutritious
13 and healthy food from local and regional producers,
14 including through food hubs created with the support of
15 Iowa's expanding Local Food and Farm Program; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
17 Representatives strongly encourages other state and
18 local government entities including the Department
19 of Administrative Services and agencies purchasing
20 through that department, the Department for the Blind,
21 community colleges, and the Department of Corrections
22 and associated institutions, as well as counties,
23 cities, and public schools to increase the direct
24 purchase of nutritious and healthy food from local and
25 regional producers, including through food hubs created
26 with the support of Iowa's expanding Local Food and
27 Farm Program; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
29 Representatives strongly encourages state and local
30 entities to establish procurement goals for the

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1 purchase of healthy and nutritious food grown by
2 local and regional producers and to become active
3 participants in a regional food system working
4 group; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
6 Representatives urges all public entities engaged in
7 cooperative or coordinated food purchasing to establish
8 procurement specifications requiring vendors to source
9 a designated percentage of food from local and regional
10 producers in order to be recognized as a qualified
11 bidder; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
13 Resolution be sent to the Governor, the President
14 of the State Board of Regents, the Director of the
15 Department of Administrative Services, the Director
16 of the Department for the Blind, the Director of
17 the Department of Education, the Iowa Association
18 of Community College Trustees, the Director of the
19 Department of Corrections, the Iowa State Association
20 of Counties, and the Iowa League of Cities.