

House Resolution 112 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY ISENHART, WILLIAMS, KURTH, GASKILL, THEDE,
BEARINGER, STECKMAN, WILBURN, McKEAN, BENNETT,
KRESSIG, BROWN-POWERS, STAED, JACOBY, EHLERT,
McCONKEY, COHOON, WINCKLER, ANDERSON, MASCHER, and
DONAHUE

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

1 local food systems to promote the production, sale, and
2 consumption of food grown in Iowa; and

3 WHEREAS, beginning in 2011, the General Assembly has
4 annually appropriated moneys to support the Local Food
5 and Farm Program administered under Iowa Code chapter
6 267A; and

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

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

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

1 49,000 full-time farm jobs; and

2 WHEREAS, targeted government procurement policies
3 have been successfully used to spur economic growth,
4 increase employment, develop rural communities, foster
5 the creation of value chain partnerships and promote
6 small businesses, including businesses operated by
7 families, young entrepreneurs, veterans, minorities,
8 persons with disabilities, ex-offenders, and others
9 underrepresented within the private sector; and

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

14 WHEREAS, food policy councils have been established
15 in several Iowa counties, including Dubuque, Johnson,
16 Linn, Cass, and Woodbury counties, which have come
17 together as the Iowa Food Policy Coalition, to identify
18 local and state policies, programs and resources,
19 as well as private sector initiatives, to develop
20 local and regional food systems and infrastructure
21 to fulfill the needs of both farm producers and food
22 consumers; and

23 WHEREAS, the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative
24 instituted by Governor Terry Branstad, and supported by
25 Governor Kim Reynolds, is dedicated to achieving the
26 goal of making Iowa the healthiest state in the nation,
27 and making "double up food bucks" for individuals
28 receiving nutrition assistance a staple of its menu of
29 programs; and

30 WHEREAS, government procurement preferences focused

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

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

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

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
30 Representatives strongly encourages state and local

1 entities to establish procurement goals for the
2 purchase of healthy and nutritious food grown by
3 local and regional producers and to become active
4 participants in a regional food system working
5 group; and

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

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