

NDPHA - DRAFT - Resolution 2022 Local Foods Systems

Support of the Development and Growth of Local Food Systems in North Dakota

Whereas, many of us experienced for the first time during the pandemic going to a grocery store and not finding items or classes of items we were seeking;

Whereas, half of school districts in North Dakota lost their primary food distributor and food deliveries in November, 2021, and food orders have been delayed, backordered, out of stock for schools, long term care facilities, grocery stores, and most all places that prepare and serve and sell food¹;

Whereas, people who have access to and can afford healthy food are healthier and there exist barriers to, and disparities in, the accessibility and availability of foods that support healthy eating patterns²;

Whereas, agriculture and food production are important to producers and the state and local economies³;

Whereas, North Dakota has zero food hubs (a food hub is a regional center with personnel who aggregate food from multiple sources and helps to get food to where needed)⁴;

Whereas, in a six-year period North Dakota lost more than 20 percent of its rural grocery stores⁵, and a map commissioned by the North Dakota Rural Grocer Initiative showing location of grocery stores has not been updated since prior to the pandemic⁶;

Whereas, locating places where food is stored, sold, prepared, and served, and how it is transported are crucial for disaster/emergency preparedness⁷; economic development, identification of gaps and policy decision-making;

Whereas, local food systems served as innovative, flexible, and resilient responders to food needs during the COVID-19 pandemic⁸.

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Dakota Public Health Association supports the development of connected and planned local food systems that assure that North Dakota nourishes its residents in addition to growing food and commodities that are exported across the United States and the world; and

Be it further resolved that the North Dakota Public Health Association requests that the great State of North Dakota, with its information technology resources, map all food retailers, including supermarkets,

¹ <https://www.electric.coop/north-dakota-co-ops-work-to-help-solve-school-food-supply-chain-problem> and <https://hunt-institute.org/resources/2022/02/supply-chain-disruptions-are-impacting-school-nutrition/>

²

<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-foods-support-healthy-eating-patterns>

³ <https://www.medialibrary.nd.gov/assetbank-nd/assetfile/94914.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/foodhubs>

⁵ ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Rural Grocer Initiative, office records, 2016-2019

⁶ <http://hungerfreend.org/data/>

⁷ U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Supportive Schools <https://rems.ed.gov/AboutUs.aspx> and https://rems.ed.gov/docs/FoodWebinar_Presentation_508C11.pdf

⁸ *Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID*, <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

grocery stores, farmers markets, and convenience stores and make the map readily available online and updated annually; and

Be it further resolved that the North Dakota Public Health Association requests the coordination and collaboration of the state departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Public Instruction, and Commerce, along with tribal governments, nonprofit and membership associations and organizations, including the North Dakota Public Health Association, to bring focus and resources to healthful food supplies and food systems for our residents.