

State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont Joint Senate Resolution

By the Committee on Agriculture,

J.R.S. 63. Joint resolution requesting the sustainable agriculture council to establish a locally grown collaborative to coordinate future policy pertaining to local food growth initiatives in Vermont.

Whereas, the General Assembly has recognized the importance and benefits of sustainable agriculture for both economic and ecological purposes, and

Whereas, in order to promote sustainable agriculture in the state, the General Assembly has established, pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 4701(b), a Vermont sustainable agriculture council (the council) with the purposes of facilitating and disseminating research, and promoting the integration of sustainable agriculture practices into farming operations, and

Whereas, the council has recognized that locally grown farm products are integral to the development of sustainable agriculture in Vermont, and it has established a 2008 goal to “increase the direct sale of local farm products by 50% and to increase storage and processing capacity of locally grown farm products by 20% above current levels by 2012,” and

Whereas, although many initiatives in Vermont focus on growing local food products, there is at best only minimal coordination of these activities, and, as separate projects, their overall impact on sustainable agricultural policies and practices in the state cannot be maximized, and

Whereas, improving the communication and coordination among individuals and organizations responsible for and benefiting from locally grown initiatives is in the interest of producers and consumers alike, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly requests that the Vermont sustainable agriculture council establish a locally grown collaborative consisting of individuals and organizations including farmers, nonprofit agricultural organizations, food processors and distributors, academic specialists in the field of agriculture, and consumers interested in Vermont food products, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly further requests that the council direct the collaborative to provide recommendations on future policy pertaining to local food growth initiatives, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the council is requested to direct the collaborative to submit a report of its recommendations on or before December 1, 2008, to the council for its review and inclusion as part of the council’s annual report due by January 15, 2009, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont sustainable agriculture council.

President of the Senate

Attested to:

Speaker of the House

David A. Gibson
Secretary of the Senate

Date: _____