

RESOLUTION NO. 496

ESTABLISHING A LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICY FOR ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 12/8/08

By Messrs. Nichols, Bullock, Domalewicz, Gordon, Joyce and Steck:

WHEREAS, It is the policy of Albany County to promote the economic vitality and public health and safety of its communities, and

WHEREAS, The “Local Food Purchasing Policy” is intended to increase regional per capita income, provide incentives for job creation, attract economic investment, fight global climate change and promote the health and safety of its citizens and communities, and

WHEREAS, “Locally produced food” shall mean food that is grown and processed within a 100-mile radius of the Albany County Courthouse located on Eagle Street in the City of Albany, NY, and

WHEREAS, A study in Iowa found that a regional diet consumed 17 times less oil and gas than a typical diet based on food shipped across the country and according to a study by the New Economics Foundation in London, a dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy, and

WHEREAS, Locally produced food makes farming more economically viable keeping farmers in business and saving valuable farmland from development, and

WHEREAS, While produce that is purchased in the supermarket or a big-box store has been in transit or cold-stored for days or weeks, produce purchased locally has often been picked within 24 hours providing fresh produce that not only improves the taste of food, but also the nutritional value of food which declines over time, and

WHEREAS, When a farmer is producing food that will not travel a long distance a shorter shelf life allows the farmer to try small crops of various fruits and vegetables making farmers more profitable and providing consumers with more choices, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Albany County shall establish a “Local Food Purchasing Policy” that shall include a budget allocation equaling at least 10% of the annual costs of the county’s food purchases, including but not limited to, such food purchased for Albany County’s Residential Healthcare Facilities and the Albany County Correctional Facility, derived from locally produced food, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Local Food Purchasing Policy shall be expanded and be updated annually by the County Legislature with guidance from a special sub-committee or task force established and appointed by the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Albany County Legislature, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law Committee. 12/8/08