

This resolution is made in recognition and support of the industry of agriculture in Washington County and the contributions made by all the farmers who make up that industry. It also recognizes the contributions the agriculture industry brings to the economic, cultural, and environmental well-being of the county.

Whereas: Agriculture contributes significantly to the economy of Washington County by being the largest industry in Washington County contributing in excess of \$75 million to the economy annually.

Whereas: Washington County agriculture is comprised of many farms that are very diverse in their operation.

Whereas: All of Washington County's farms are family farms regardless of their size.

Whereas: The Washington County Board of Supervisors recognizes that all farmers are an important part of the community.

Whereas: The Washington County Board of Supervisors believes that all farmers should be allowed to operate within the confines of the law without undue restriction or infringement.

Whereas: Current law makes provision for any producer to sell their product to consumers locally via farmer's markets and other venues.

Whereas: Current laws allow the sale of certain uninspected products such as eggs and poultry to the public given the right conditions are met.

Whereas: Producers of commodities should be allowed to maximize the value of their product through marketing channels (as allowed by law) that afford them the best price.

Whereas: An affordable, nutritious food supply is important to the health and well-being of Washington County citizens regardless of their level of disposable income. Moreover, the productive capacity of our farmers contributes significantly to making affordable, nutritious food available to everyone.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** By The Board of Supervisors of Washington County, that the promotion and support of the industry of agriculture and the farmers that make up this valuable economic and cultural engine is critical to future well-being of our communities and the county as a whole.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Washington County Board of Supervisors supports and encourages farmers to seek out and use the best marketing opportunities possible for their products.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board of Supervisors is in support of the current laws that allow farmers to market their products locally or globally as they provide a safe nutritious product for

the American consumer. Moreover, the Board of Supervisors is opposed to efforts that negatively affect Washington County farmers by changing these laws.