

RESOLUTION #

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NEW FDA REGULATIONS FOR FARMERS

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- WHEREAS, the growing craft beer business in Buncombe County is a perfect example of the opportunity to connect struggling livestock producers to a low cost feed source available from new and developing breweries in the area; and
- WHEREAS, this feeding process had been a proven practice for many years in other parts of North Carolina and provides a much needed increase in farm income by lowering the cost of cattle production. This additional income source encourages our local farmers to keep family farms working rather than to sell for real estate development; and
- WHEREAS, this board gives its unwavering support for reasonable regulation that strengthens the safety of our food supply for humans and animals; however, this Board is concerned with the proposed regulation of spent brewers' and distillers' grains under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed rule, *Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls For Food For Animals* (proposed animal food rule); and
- WHEREAS, by establishing a broad definition of "animal food", FDA extends this regulation to encompass finished product, raw materials and ingredients such as spent brewers' grains. Spent grains are widely used for animal food across this country and the brewing industry has cultivated mutually beneficial relationships with farmers and the animal food industry to take advantage of this local, nutritious and cost effective source of animal food; and
- WHEREAS, the animal food industry and farmers have developed best practices to address food safety concerns associated with the use of this product working in conjunction with State Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension programs and land grant universities. The systems currently in place are effectively addressing any risks as evidenced by the lack of human or animal food borne illnesses associated with the use of the product; and
- WHEREAS, WNC Communities and the WNC Brewer's Grain LLC have let us know that adding an additional layer of control and record keeping, such as that being considered in the Food Safety Modernization Act, would add significant costs which could cause farmers to choose an alternate feed source. This would leave breweries without an efficient disposal system for wet grain and force them to the undesirable alternate of a landfill; and
- WHEREAS, we support our local farmers and numerous craft breweries and respectfully request you give favorable consideration to an exemption for craft breweries and the farmers who feed wet grain from any new regulations.
- WHEREAS, This Board feels it is in the best interest of the citizens to request that the US Food and Drug Administration help us protect this farm/brewery partnership with this exemption thereby preserving the opportunity for family farmers in the rural

mountain region of North Carolina to enjoy greater income and keep their farms working and productive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That this Board officially request that the US Food and Drug Administration exempt craft breweries and the farmers who feed wet grain from any new regulations.
  
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to our local representatives and congressional representatives.
  
3. That this resolution be effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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COUNTY ATTORNEY