



**Executive Committee Meeting
Burlington, Vermont
August, 5, 2009**

RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the United States has passed H.R. 2749, The Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC), and its affiliate the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship (NSAAS), recognize that American consumers deserve the safest food possible, whether domestic or imported; and

WHEREAS, although, the U.S. food production system is among the best in the world, we understand that improvement is an critical goal; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast's rural communities are made up of many small farms that have been successfully adding value and diversifying; and

WHEREAS, diversification has resulted in producers adding processing and marketing to their activities; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Northeast food producers to maintain the confidence of consumers that their food is safe; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that both state and federal fiscal resources are limited and should be utilized efficiently and wisely to ensure food safety without unduly impeding economic activity; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CSG/ERC and NSAAS urge Congress to consider the unintended consequences of a one-size-fits-all fee system on small value added producers and processors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that existing USDA regulations on farmers continue to exempt farms from additional Food and Drug Administration regulations and inspections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that producer operations registered with the Department Homeland Security as facilities, specifically maple sugar and honey, should receive the same treatment as all farmers under federal food safety legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the inclusion of intensive record keeping in any federal regulation should include funding and technical assistance to small producers and processors for compliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that scale appropriate regulations, fees and penalties be included in any federal food safety legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that existing state inspection programs should be given consideration in the development of any federal food safety regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House Agriculture Committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the U.S. Senate and House that represent the states that comprise the CSG/ERC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Food and Drug Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the chairs of the Northeast states House and Senate committees that oversee agriculture and rural affairs.