

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION ON UTILIZATION OF FRESH LOCAL MILK IN FEDERALLY FUNDED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

Resolution Summary

The following resolution addresses the issue of dairy farm viability in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is an island community that is very dependent on imported food. The serious issue of food security is compounded by this dependency. Therefore, it is important for Puerto Rico to have programmatic support for local agriculture producers. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food program is designed to support the domestic agriculture industry while providing high quality, nutritious food to low income residents. The dairy industry in Puerto Rico currently provides more than 25,000 jobs, therefore, the loss of this industry will affect the island's wage base as well as consumer choice. This resolution seeks to have the WIC program specifically support locally produced milk and dairy products.

This resolution came from The Council of State Governments-Eastern Regional Conference (ERC), where it was passed by the Executive Committee on March 31, 2007

Utilization of Fresh Local Milk Management Directive:

Management Directive #1: CSG staff would need to send copies of this to members of Congress on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, state Agriculture Commissioners and Directors and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

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WHEREAS, state, provincial and territorial policy makers understand the importance of supplying healthy, fresh milk and other wholesome foods for their constituents; and

WHEREAS, dairy is the "anchor tenant" of agriculture in many areas of the country, supporting the critical mass of infrastructure upon which many other agricultural enterprises depend; and

WHEREAS, the federal government in partnership with state governments has created food security programs to satisfy the nutritional needs of low income children and families; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Infants and Children (WIC) program was created to specifically address nutritional deficiencies in young children; and

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention that the WIC program in Puerto Rico is substituting Ultra High Temperature (UHT) milk for fresh, local milk in its program; and

WHEREAS, independent market research studies indicate that 96% of consumers prefer the taste of fresh milk over UHT milk or powder milk.; and

WHEREAS, infants and young children, who reject the taste of UHT milk and do not consume it and do not receive the nutritional benefit of the product; and

WHEREAS, there is some level of nutritional loss in certain proteins that are important to the mother and to the child with UHT milk due to the high temperature process required to sterilize and pack this product; and

WHEREAS, WIC's program also aims to provide support to the local industry of each individual state to whom it is providing the benefits; and

WHEREAS, dairy continues to be the driving force of commerce, employment and income in Puerto Rico accounting for more than 25,000 jobs;

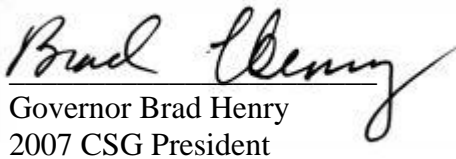
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments representing state, territorial and provincial policy leaders urge the use of local, fresh milk in WIC and other federally funded hunger security programs; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of Congress serving on Senate and House Agriculture and Appropriations committees as well as Puerto Rico's representative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Commissioners of Agriculture in every state and territory.

Adopted this 13th Day of June, 2007 at the
CSG Spring National Committee and Task Force Meetings
In Puerto Rico


Governor Brad Henry
2007 CSG President


Representative Deborah Hudson
2007 CSG Chair