



Co-Chairs
Senator Terry Gerratana
Connecticut

Representative Kevin Ryan
Deputy Speaker
Connecticut

Director
Wendell M. Hannaford

RESOLUTION # AG-2017-02

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROCESSING REVIVAL AND
INTRASTATE MEAT EXEMPTION ACT (PRIME)

Whereas, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 Northeast states from Maine to Maryland, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and five Canadian Provinces; and

Whereas, the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship (NSAAS) is a CSG/ERC affiliate organization representing state and provincial agricultural and rural policy leaders in the Northeast; and

Whereas, one of NSAAS's principles is to provide a unified voice for Northeast state officials on agriculture and rural communities in Federal legislation; and

Whereas, across the country farmers and ranchers are seeing a growing demand for meat that has been raised and processed locally; and

Whereas, currently in order to sell their products to satisfy this demand, farmers and ranchers must have their animals processed at a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified facility; and

Whereas, many states have a distinct lack of USDA approved facilities, forcing farmers and ranchers to funnel their animals into a limited number of facilities, some of which are 100 miles from the farm, or even out of state, when they intend to sell the processed meat to their friends and neighbors; and

Whereas, between 2001 and 2013, the number of small federally inspected processing plants declined by 12 percent;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that NSAAS supports the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption Act (PRIME Act S. 1232/H.R. 2697), introduced by Senators King (Maine) and Pingree (Maine), and Representative Massey (Kentucky), which would give individual states the option to permit the intrastate distribution of custom slaughtered meat, such as beef, pork, lamb or goat; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Federal Meat Inspection Act should be amended to expand the exemption of custom slaughtering of animals from federal inspection requirements; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Federal Meat Inspection Act should be expanded to exempt meat that is slaughtered and prepared at a custom slaughter facility in accordance with the laws of the state where the facility is located; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the exemption should cover only meat that is prepared exclusively for distribution to household consumers in the state, and restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, grocery stores, or other establishments in the state that either prepare meals served directly to consumers or sell meat and food products directly to consumers in the state; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the exemption not preempt any state law concerning the slaughter of animals or the preparation of carcasses, parts thereof, meat and meat food products at a custom slaughter facility, or the sale of meat or meat food products,

Be It Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

**Adopted August 16 at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum,
Uncasville, Connecticut**