

TALKING POINTS
January 20, 2010
Legislative Lobby Day

1. Consumer Demand

There are increasing demands for locally prepared, small batch foods, while the public becomes more aware of numerous food poisoning outbreaks resulting from commercially processed foods.

2. Private Home Inspections are Oppressive and Unnecessary

Regulations mandating inspections of private homes where the resident processes and prepares food for sale to an individual for his own consumption are oppressive and unnecessary. Such inspections inhibit small, local enterprises.

3. 2008 Exemption

In the 2008 legislative session a bill was passed exempting candies, jams, jellies, and certain baked goods from inspection if those items were sold at the home or at Farmers Markets and labeled "NOT FOR RESALE – PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION." There have been no public health problems resulting from this legislation.

4. Current Bill – New Exemptions

This current bill, #HB60, proposes to add pickles, salsa, and relish to the list of exempted food items. Because of the acidic nature of these products, they may be safely produced and sold from home.

5. Virginia's Budget Shortfall

Virginia's budget shortfall demands that available funds be used to inspect the *problem areas* in food safety: mainly, food processed by large commercial businesses.

6. Support Families and Bolster Local Economy.

Allowing the sale of some home-made products would provide a valuable source of supplemental income to families. It would also bolster the local economy. According to an economic analysis report conducted by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, if every household in the state spent just \$10 on local food per week, the Virginia economy would receive an additional \$1.65 billion.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

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ANNUAL COMMUNITY FOOD DOLLARS GENERATED IF EACH HOUSEHOLD IN VIRGINIA SPENT \$10 / WEEK OF THEIR TOTAL FOOD BUDGET ON FRESH LOCAL FOOD AND FARM-BASED VIRGINIA PRODUCTS ⁱ

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CENTRAL DISTRICT	
Region	Economic Impact
Region 2000	\$54,422,160
West Piedmont Region	\$63,279,320
Southside Region	\$22,597,640
Commonwealth Regional Council Region	\$22,310,600
Subtotal	\$162,609,720

NORTHERN DISTRICT	
Region	Economic Impact
Rappahannock-Rapidan Region	\$32,890,000
Thomas Jefferson Region	\$50,660,480
George Washington Region	\$57,224,440
Northern Virginia Region	\$414,486,800
Subtotal	\$555,261,720

NORTHEAST DISTRICT	
Region	Economic Impact
Richmond Regional	\$203,062,600
Middle Peninsula Region	\$22,176,440
Northern Neck Region	\$15,406,040
Subtotal	\$240,645,080

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NORTHWEST DISTRICT	
Region	Economic Impact
Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Highlands Region	\$65,220,480
Central Shenandoah Valley Region	\$59,848,360
Northern Shenandoah Region	\$46,245,160
Subtotal	\$171,314,000

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT	
Region	Economic Impact
Crater Region	\$36,852,920
Accomack-Northampton Region	\$14,481,480
Hampton Roads Region	\$332,867,600
Subtotal	\$384,202,000

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT	
Region	Economic Impact
Lenowisco Region	\$22,543,560
Cumberland Plateau Region	\$28,265,120
Mount Rogers Region	\$38,315,680
New River Valley Region	\$48,767,160
Subtotal	\$137,891,520
TOTAL	\$1,651,924,040

\$1.65 BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR

TOTAL ANNUAL COMMUNITY FOOD DOLLARS DIRECTLY GENERATED & REINVESTED IN VIRGINIA AREA AGRICULTURE & LOCAL INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES BECAUSE OF A DECISION TO BUY LOCAL FOOD & FARM PRODUCTS.

i U.S. Census (2000), based on 3,176,777 total households.

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