

## Community-Based Local Food Production

Whereas, small farms operating to support farm families and local residents have a long historical presence in the State of Maine; and

Whereas, the state Department of Agriculture was established in 1979 for the express purpose of ensuring small farm viability; and

Whereas, state and federal regulations in regard to small farm production have become financially onerous and scale-inappropriate for small family farms; and

Whereas, traditional food exchanges rest on trust and personal responsibility (including face-to-face farm sales and community social events, including but not limited to grange suppers and bake sales); and

Whereas, the opportunity for municipalities to opt out of federal and/or state licensing and inspection removes barriers preventing small farm entry into local food markets; and

Whereas, Maine Home Rule authorizes municipalities to enact ordinances for the purposes of advancing the public, health, safety and welfare of its residents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Maine State Grange will use its influence to urge the passage of legislation recognizing municipalities' authority to regulate by ordinance the direct producer-to-customer exchange of all food grown, harvested, prepared, processed or produced in the municipality.