



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Walter Petty, Vice Chair

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COUNTY MANAGER

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

REQUESTING ACTION CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE NC COOPERATION EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE NC AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

WHEREAS, at its meeting on the evening of April 4, 2011, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to seek a less drastic, more proportional state budget cut for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service (NCCES) and the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service (NCARS); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners understands that the NCCES and the NCARS must sustain state budget cuts during this difficult budget period, but the commissioners urge you to make the cuts more proportionate. The state budgets of these two programs are not offset by tuition increases, yet the work they do is critical to the state's economic development; and

WHEREAS, agriculture continues to be a vital economic engine in Chatham County with annual revenues of \$123 million, or about 23% of the county's gross product. It represents about 20% of our total employment. At the state level, the agricultural sector is valued at \$74 billion; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the state budgets for NCCES and NCARS increased at a much slower pace (18%) than the pace of overall state spending (48%). This puts them both at a disadvantage and it will put undue stress on these critical programs to sustain the current level of proposed cuts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners urges the House Standing Committee to please consider the overall economic impact of major cuts on agriculture and agri-business throughout North Carolina when making decisions about the state budgets of the NCCES and the NCARS.

Adopted this 2nd day of May, 2011.

Brian Bock, Chair

ATTEST:

Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners