

May 7th, 2021

To: Brenda Bacon
Chair, Food Code Adoption Workgroup
Collaborative Representative, Conference for Food Protection

From: Shane Smith
Food Protection and Facilities Branch Head
Environmental Health Section
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Re: Letter of Support

The Food Protection and Facilities Branch of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is pleased to support and encourage the adoption the most recent version of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's model Food Code by all retail food regulatory programs.

We are in the process of adopting the 2017 Food Code as the basis of our rules. We are currently using the 2009 Food Code and it has increased our effectiveness in reducing food borne outbreak risk behaviors with the assistance of our local regulatory and industry partners. Benefits of unified adherence to the current model FDA Food Code by retail food regulatory entities (regardless of name) include:

- Reduction of complexity and better ensures compliance, affording small and medium sized business the opportunity to expand across borders without worry about "different rules";
- Empowerment of industry through jurisdictional reciprocity by enhancing the whole of our food safety network;
- Elimination of redundant processes for establishing food safety criteria; and
- Establishment of a more standardized approach to inspections and audits of food establishments.

Staying current with the Food Code is the choice to embrace the best scientific practice available as the tools to serve our mission of protecting our communities from foodborne illness that can potentially cause devastating health consequences and financial losses.

The Food Protection and Facilities Branch of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services encourages all retail food regulatory organizations to join us in these efforts in supporting the timely adoption of the most recent version of the model FDA Food Code. We also offer our support with any organization that may be looking to adopt this as part of your current rule framework in the future.

Shane Smith

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