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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO  
EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF RHODE ISLAND BASED DAIRY PRODUCTS IN  
STATE AGENCIES

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Walaska, Kettle, Hodgson, and Bates

Date Introduced: June 01, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island based agricultural products have experienced the largest  
2 economic growth in Rhode Island in the past ten years, according to the Economic Development  
3 Corporation; and

4           WHEREAS, Rhode Island based dairy distributors supply hundreds of stores throughout  
5 Rhode Island, including neighboring areas in Massachusetts, as well as education institutions, like  
6 the Lincoln School, the Wheeler School, LaSalle Academy, Roger Williams University, Brown  
7 University, Providence College, Salve Regina University, and the Rhode Island School of  
8 Design; and

9           WHEREAS, Although Rhode Island based dairy sells at a premium to volume producers,  
10 income from these sales helps to preserve farmland in Rhode Island and creates jobs offsetting  
11 these costs; and

12           WHEREAS, Purchasing Rhode Island based dairy products supports the local economy  
13 and Rhode Island dairy farms, and helps to preserve open space and agricultural landscapes; and

14           WHEREAS, Our Senate members need input from the Rhode Island based dairy  
15 distributors to proceed in a unified way to allow the University of Rhode Island and other state  
16 and municipal agencies the financial independence from the current state oversight to purchase  
17 these products based on quality, freshness, and being a home-based industry, and not on price  
18 alone; and

19           WHEREAS, Supporting Rhode Island based agricultural distributors would further

1 enhance economic development in our great state; and

2 WHEREAS, Chapter 37-2-8 of the Rhode Island general laws states, when foodstuffs of  
3 good quality grown or produced in Rhode Island by Rhode Island farmers are available, the  
4 purchasing agent is directed to purchase those foodstuffs at the prevailing market prices when any  
5 of those foodstuffs are required by the state institutions; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
7 supports amendments to state purchasing procedures that will allow Rhode Island dairy  
8 distributors the ability to competitively bid for the state milk contract; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate respectfully requests the Department of Administration to  
10 expand the availability of Rhode Island based dairy products in state agencies; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
13 Administration.

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