

Resolution of the Chicago City Council Supporting the Allocation of Federal Nutrition Assistance Program Funds for Locally Grown Produce in Puerto Rico

Resolution No.: [Resolution Number]

WHEREAS, The United States of America, as a nation, should be committed to the welfare, prosperity, and resilience of all its territories, including Puerto Rico;

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico currently imports approximately 85% of its food, leaving it vulnerable to global market fluctuations and potential supply chain disruptions;

WHEREAS, Strengthening Puerto Rico's local agricultural sector by reprogramming United States Department of Agriculture funds toward purchasing locally grown items will significantly enhance food sovereignty and resilience on the island;

WHEREAS, Supporting local agriculture in Puerto Rico has the potential to stimulate economic growth, creating jobs and encouraging entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector; including increasing commerce between the island and the more than 200,000-strong Illinois Puerto Rican Diaspora.

WHEREAS, The initiative will promote sustainable agricultural practices and reduce the carbon footprint associated with long-distance food transportation, thereby contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts;

WHEREAS, Food sovereignty can bolster Puerto Rico's ability to recover from natural disasters, reducing the reliance on federal aid and demonstrating a model for resilience that could be replicated across the country;

WHEREAS, Encouraging the production and consumption of locally grown produce can foster the preservation of Puerto Rico's rich culinary traditions, promote healthier eating habits, and enrich our national cultural heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, express our strong support for the initiative to reprogram USDA funds allocated to Puerto Rico toward purchasing locally grown items in Puerto Rico;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to endorse and implement this initiative in recognition of its potential to foster economic growth, promote sustainability, enhance resilience, and enrich cultural heritage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and the Governor of Puerto Rico.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Chicago City Council on this [Day] of [Month], [Year].

SIGNED:

