



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 12, 2009

Motion 12907

Proposed No. 2008-0547.1

Sponsors Dunn and Lambert

1 A MOTION supporting the Puget Sound Meat Producers
2 Co-operative in their efforts to develop a United States
3 Department of Agriculture-inspected mobile slaughter
4 facility and to revive the regional livestock industry and
5 keep valuable farmland in agricultural production.

6
7 WHEREAS, the continuation of agricultural production by local farmers is
8 important to King County, and

9 WHEREAS, the Rural Economic Strategies identifies agriculture as a key cluster
10 of the rural economy, and

11 WHEREAS, there are no United States Department of Agriculture-inspected
12 ("USDA-inspected") slaughter facilities located locally, and

13 WHEREAS, this makes it difficult and costly for local farmers to process their
14 livestock and poultry, and

15 WHEREAS, many farmers have discontinued or are planning to discontinue their
16 livestock operations because of the lack of USDA-inspected slaughter facilities in the
17 area, and

18 WHEREAS, the King County agriculture commission supports the development
19 of infrastructure that enhances the economic viability of agriculture in King County, and

20 WHEREAS, the Rural Economic Strategies (RES-A3) states the county's intent to
21 explore opportunities to provide USDA-inspected slaughter unit or units, and

22 WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Meat Producers Co-operative ("PSMPC"),
23 including farmers, butchers, restaurateurs and other interested parties, was formed to
24 develop better ways to produce, process and market locally raised meat for local
25 consumers consistent with United States Department of Agriculture inspection standards,
26 and

27 WHEREAS, one goal of the PSMPC is to establish a new mobile slaughter unit
28 that will allow farmers to participate in the local market without having to transport their
29 product long distances for slaughter, and

30 WHEREAS, one hundred sixteen livestock owners in King, Pierce, Kitsap, and
31 Thurston counties indicated they would use the mobile slaughter facility in response to a
32 recent survey, and

33 WHEREAS, PSMPC has received commitments totaling more than \$300,000
34 from contributors, including the Pierce Conservation District, the King County
35 department of natural resources and parks, Cascade Harvest Coalition, Washington State
36 Farm Bureau and local farmers, as well as in-kind contributions from the city of
37 Enumclaw, Washington State University Small Farms, King County Washington State
38 University Extension and the University of Washington, and

39 WHEREAS, only a few items are still to be funded, including a truck to pull the
40 trailer, promotion/marketing assistance and a shuttle truck for deliveries to meat shops,
41 and

42 WHEREAS, PSMPC is committed to the mobile slaughter facility which will
43 increase the profitability of local farmers by allowing them to access the value-added
44 marketplace with their products, reduce the miles locally grown food needs to travel to
45 market, provide opportunities to enhance the safety of locally grown meat, and encourage
46 livestock farmers to strengthen stewardship and sustainability and support humane
47 livestock production;

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

49 A. The King County council hereby expresses support for the Puget Sound Meat
50 Producers Co-operative in its efforts to develop a USDA-inspected mobile slaughter
51 facility and to revive the regional livestock industry, thus keeping valuable farmland in
52 agricultural production.

53 B. County staff and King County agriculture commissioners are requested to
54 work with the Puget Sound Meat Producers Co-operative by continuing to provide
55

56 technical assistance and by helping to identify appropriate funding sources to assist in
57 achieving the goal of providing local USDA-inspected slaughter facilities.

58


Motion 12907 was introduced on 10/13/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 1/12/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von
Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Phillips

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None