

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 512

Short Title: Regional Value-Added Processing Ctr Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Kinnaird; Atwater and Foriest.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 6, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A REGIONAL VALUE-ADDED
2 PROCESSING CENTER TO SERVE ALAMANCE, CHATHAM, DURHAM,
3 AND ORANGE COUNTIES.
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5 Whereas, more and more farmers in the Alamance, Chatham, Durham, and
6 Orange County region are moving away from tobacco production into other farm
7 products; and

8 Whereas, most farmers in this four-county region are not likely to receive any
9 significant benefits from the Golden Leaf program because two of the four partnering
10 counties, while still benefiting from a strong local farm economy, are not individually or
11 collectively recognized as tobacco dependent; and

12 Whereas, Alamance, Chatham, Durham, and Orange Counties, along with
13 several local businesses, have partnered to fund a feasibility study from which will be
14 developed a regional value-added processing center which would enhance agribusiness
15 in the four-county area and also serve as a model for developing centers in the other
16 areas of the State; and

17 Whereas, the Alamance, Chatham, Durham, and Orange County region is
18 readily accessible via the Interstate and U.S. highway systems, thereby making it
19 "farmer convenient" and an especially strong candidate for a statewide model regional
20 value-added agriculture product processing center; and

21 Whereas, value-added processing uses a method to manipulate products in a
22 way that increases the value, shelf life, or usability of the products, such as creating
23 jams, jellies, baked goods, or frozen products from produce; and

24 Whereas, schools, hospitals, community colleges, local grocery stores, and
25 other institutions have expressed a willingness to purchase locally grown products if an
26 adequate year-round supply can be guaranteed; and

27 Whereas, a value-added processing center would not only enable farmers
28 from the region to better meet the demand for year-round locally grown products but

1 also provide a supervised, sanitary facility to prepare and package food to increase food
2 safety, as well as food security in terrorist-plagued times; Now, therefore,
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Orange
5 County the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to
6 construct and equip a regional value-added processing center to enhance agribusiness in
7 Alamance, Chatham, Durham, and Orange Counties.

8 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.