



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2007 – 27S

Creating the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council

- 1. Ohio's System of Growing and Processing Food is a Key Component of Developing Ohio's Economy.** The State of Ohio has a 93 billion dollar food and agriculture industry and is in the unique position of having both an abundance of land ideally suited for growing and processing food and enough residents to purchase and consume food grown within the State. Because of these advantages, increasing the percentage of food grown, processed and consumed in Ohio will provide significant financial benefits to the entire State and will help preserve Ohio's farmlands and farm operations.
- 2. Ohio Must Ensure That Its Citizens Have Access to Food, Regardless of Their Socioeconomic Status.** Despite Ohio's thriving food industry, there are, regrettably, some Ohioans whose access to food is limited. A recent report from the USDA states that over twelve percent (12%) of Ohio households were uncertain about having, or being able to acquire, enough food to meet the needs of all of the household's family members because there was not enough money or other resources for food.
- 3. Establishment of the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council.** To ensure that Ohio is taking full advantage of its agricultural industry, I hereby order the creation of the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council (the "Food Policy Council").

4. **Council Role.** The mission of the Food Policy Council is to:
 - a. Collect and analyze information on the production and process of foods in Ohio, as well as the patterns of food consumption
 - b. Protect Ohio's valuable farmland and water resources by encouraging the growth of food products in Ohio
 - c. Provide those in need with greater access to fresh and nutritious foods
 - d. Assist Ohio's farmers and business in marketing their food products inside and outside of the State
 - e. Develop strategies to link producers and consumers in local food systems

5. **Council Composition.** The Food Policy Council will be composed of the following:
 - a. Representatives of diverse sectors of the food and agricultural industries in the State
 - b. Representatives of various geographic regions of the State
 - c. One member appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate
 - d. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House
 - e. Representatives of state cabinet agencies

6. **Governance; Support Staff; Meetings; Compensation.** The Food Policy Council may adopt by-laws setting forth rules for the governance of the Council and conduct of its meetings. The Ohio Department of Agriculture ("ODA") will provide support staff for the Food Policy Council. The Council shall meet at least on a quarterly basis and the Chair of the Council may call additional meetings as needed. Members of the Council will not receive compensation for their service to the Council. However, consistent with Executive Orders previously issued, members may be reimbursed their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in conducting business of the Food Policy Council. Such expenses shall be paid by the ODA.

7. I signed this Executive Order on August 7, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio and it will expire on my last day as Governor, unless rescinded before then.


Ted Strickland, Governor



ATTEST:

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State