



**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