

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE OF FARMS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GREENVILLE COUNTY AND TO REQUEST STAFF EVALUATION OF VOLUNTARY, MARKET-FRIENDLY LAND STEWARDSHIP TOOLS AND A REVIEW OF REGULATORY AND PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.

WHEREAS, Greenville County Council recognizes that the County's rural and agricultural lands contribute significantly to the local economy through farming, forestry, agribusiness, and agritourism; and

WHEREAS, working farms and forests preserve the County's rural character and historic land use patterns while providing environmental services such as stormwater infiltration, habitat protection, and water quality enhancement; and

WHEREAS, continued growth pressures may impact the long-term viability of agricultural operations through land fragmentation, land-use conflicts, and increased regulatory complexity; and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding whether certain County regulations affecting agricultural and rural land uses may differ from or extend beyond applicable state or federal frameworks; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for County Council to request a review of such regulations to ensure legal compliance, clarity, proportionality, and consistency with adopted County plans and state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by County Council that:

A. RECOGNITION

Greenville County Council recognizes the economic, cultural, historic, and environmental value of farms, forests, and rural communities as essential to the County's long-term prosperity.

B. STAFF EVALUATION AND ADVISORY COORDINATION.

Council requests that appropriate County departments, in coordination with the Greenville County Agricultural Task Force, evaluate voluntary and incentive-based land stewardship tools and regulatory requirements affecting agricultural and rural land uses.

C. REGULATORY REVIEW SCOPE.

The evaluation shall include comparison of County policies with relevant state and federal frameworks for the purpose of identifying potential inconsistencies, redundancies, and opportunities for improved alignment.

D. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.

Stakeholder input shall be coordinated primarily through the Agricultural Task Force and other advisory bodies as appropriate.

E. COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PLANS.

Findings shall be consistent with the Greenville County Comprehensive Plan and related economic development, transportation, and environmental planning efforts.

F. REPORTING.

An initial report summarizing findings and potential policy options shall be provided to the appropriate Council committee(s) for consideration.

G. PROPERTY RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to mandate participation in any program or to diminish private property rights. All tools considered shall prioritize voluntary and incentive-based approaches.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR MEETING THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Benton Blount, Chairman
County Council

ATTEST:

Regina McCaskill
Clerk to Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator