**Request**

We, a group of concerned people from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, believe a Raleigh Wake Food Policy Council could benefit the Wake County community. We have drafted a document describing the purpose and possible structure of such an organization. The document is attached. We would like your feedback on this effort to ensure the inclusion of as many perspectives as possible.

Your thoughtful **responses to a few questions** by **March 18** would be greatly appreciated.

**Background**

In July 2013 over 50 Wake County residents attended a presentation on food policy councils hosted by many groups interested in food policy. Attendees learned that Food Policy Councils have three main functions:

- **FACILITATE CONNECTIONS** by engaging many people in the conversation
- **FOCUS ATTENTION** by making sense of complex issues
- **DRIVE ACTION** by providing impetus and support for food-related change

A task force was formed to create the conditions for a food policy council to flourish in Raleigh and Wake County In order to establish the council, the task force took on the following actions:

- **Formulate a draft charter** for the Council
- **Secure local government support** for the Council through resolution or ordinance
- **Support recruitment efforts** for initial Council membership
- **Plan initial organizational development** of the Council

While the focus of food policy councils nationwide varies greatly, the task force determined three key Council functions:

1. **Move a policy agenda forward**, including the use of practical research to make the case for where policy change is most needed
2. **Advocate for specific issues**
3. **Share information**, including events, services, and programs