

Kentucky Public Health Association
RESOLUTION #2-2006

**Full Funding of Environmental Health Services through Increased Permit Fees
Automatically Indexed for Annual Adjustments**

WHEREAS a cornerstone of public health has historically been, and continues to be, the reduction of disease transmission through control of environmental factors; and

WHEREAS environmental health services provided by local health departments stated below protect the health and contribute to the quality of life for 100% of Kentucky residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS environmental health services are mandated by the Kentucky General assembly to be provided by the local health departments in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS local health departments employ 598 Environmental Health professionals to provide the mandated services (289,939 total environmental health services were performed last year in all environmental health programs), and;

WHEREAS Health Environmentalists provided 82,066 inspections or services to all permitted facilities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (including: restaurants, groceries, temporary food booths, school cafeterias, vending machines, convenient marts, bed and breakfasts, public swimming pools, school facilities, tattoo and body piercing studios, mobile home and RV parks, youth camps, confinement facilities, septic tank cleaning vehicles, and hotels and motels.), and;

WHEREAS the total costs of providing these services was \$7,695,316.20 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, and;

WHEREAS the categorical funding for these mandated programs is generated by permit fees charged and collected by the local health departments and transferred to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for deposit in the state treasury, and;

WHEREAS permit fees collected by the local health departments amounted to \$2,154,853.49, and;

WHEREAS the Cabinet for Health and Family Services returned these fees to the local health departments to help defray the cost of providing these mandated environmental health services, and;

WHEREAS the local health departments had to subsidize these mandated environmental health services by \$5,540,462.71, and;

WHEREAS the local health departments carry out several other environmental health programs that have no current funding stream relying on local or other dollars to support these programs as well as subsidize under funded programs such as permitted establishment inspections; and

WHEREAS these subsidies erode the local health departments' capabilities to perform these and other core public health functions and to respond to unique community needs, and;

WHEREAS local health departments are under increasing financial stress due to rising employer contributions for health insurance along with increasing mandates with little or no additional funding and;

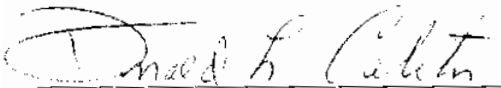
WHEREAS primary prevention services such as environmental health services are proven to maintain the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kentucky Public Health Association respectfully requests the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to increase the permit fees as necessary to provide for full funding of the environmental health services related to permitted establishments as mandated by the General Assembly, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kentucky Public Health Association respectfully requests that the General Assembly set forth provisions for the permit fees to be indexed and automatically raised yearly to cover the local health departments cost of these mandated programs, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the Kentucky General Assembly and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This resolution was approved by the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Public Health Association this 11th day of January, 2006.



Donald L. Calitri, Ed.D., President
Kentucky Public Health Association