

**A RESOLUTION OF
THE MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC.**

WHEREAS, Public Health represents the social, mental and physical well-being of human populations, and Environmental Health is the field of Public Health that is involved in the management of environmental factors affecting human well-being; and

WHEREAS, food safety is one critical area of environmental health concerns, with many emerging pathogens, such as *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Cyclospora*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Calicivirus*, etc. affecting the safety of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, food safety assessments require a thorough understanding in many areas of public health, including sanitation, food science, microbiology, epidemiology and communicable disease control, chemistry, water quality, vector control, waste disposal, and a variety of other skills such as effective interpersonal communication, risk assessment, public health law, and environmental evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Health professionals, known as Environmental Health Specialists, or Sanitarians, are trained and experienced in a variety of technical and interpersonal communication areas; and

WHEREAS, competency in Environmental Health is confirmed through the Registered Sanitarian /Registered Environmental Health Specialist credential which requires minimum qualifications and experience in all areas of environmental health; and

WHEREAS, sanitarian registration is mandatory in 20 states and voluntary in 16 additional states, and Minnesota has provided sanitarian registration since 1979; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Health Association has established the Certified Food Safety Professional credential in response to requests from the food industry for “trained food inspectors”; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Food Safety Professional is designed to test only for competency in understanding one code, the 1997 FDA Model Food Code, and does not require understanding of public health or environmental health principles, and the Certified Food Safety Professional credential is not intended to be, nor is it, equivalent to sanitarian registration; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Food Safety Professional credential has already been used in some state and local environmental health agencies as the minimum qualification for conducting food safety regulatory activities in lieu of sanitarian registration, and the Certified Food Safety Professional credential does not require an undergraduate degree; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Environmental Health Association is an official affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association, and the mission of the National Environmental Health Association is “to advance the Environmental Health professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all”; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Health Association has a responsibility to its members and the Environmental Health profession to promote sanitarian registration as the most appropriate professional credential and to ensure the most qualified professionals are conducting food safety assessments and other environmental health activities; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED the Minnesota Environmental Health Association strongly supports the Registered Sanitarian /Registered Environmental Health Specialist credential as the appropriate professional credential for conducting any environmental health activities, and the Minnesota Environmental Health Association does not recognize a credential that would diminish the professional standing of the Registered Sanitarian /Registered Environmental Health Specialist credential; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Minnesota Environmental Health Association recognizes the Registered Sanitarian /Registered Environmental Health Specialist credential as the minimum qualification to conduct food assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Minnesota Environmental Health Association strongly encourages the National Environmental Health Association to take a more active role nationally in promoting and supporting Environmental Health professionals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Minnesota Environmental Health Association encourages the National Environmental Health Association to promote and strengthen sanitarian registration as the premier Environmental Health professional credential throughout the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Minnesota Environmental Health Association requests the National Environmental Health Association to change the name of “Certified Food Safety Professional” to “Food Code Proficiency Certificate” to more accurately reflect that it is not intended to be a professional credential, but rather acknowledgement of passing a written examination on a specific topic.

Resolution unanimously passed by the members of the Minnesota Environmental Health Association, at the Annual Business Meeting, May 4, 2001.

/s/ Sharon Smith, R.S.
President

/s/ Joseph Hibberd, R.S.
Secretary