Independent retail supermarkets and the wholesalers that supply them play a vital role in the communities they serve and are a major contributor to the economy of the United States and North Carolina. Defined as a privately held, or family-owned entrepreneurial business, independent supermarket operators run businesses of all formats and sizes, and are dedicated to their customers, associates and communities.

**Stores and Sales**
In North Carolina, the independent supermarket channel includes 477 stores and generates $2.94 billion in annual sales.

**Jobs and Wages**
In North Carolina, independent supermarket operators are responsible for creating 18,000 stable, reliable jobs and $569.21 million in wages paid.

**Taxes**
In North Carolina, independent supermarkets and the wholesalers that serve them are a major source of tax revenue for federal, state and local governments. Together the independent channel and their employees generate about $258.80 million in state and local tax and $244.83 million in federal taxes. The combined total in the State of North Carolina is $503.63 million.

**National Impact**
The economic impact of the independent supermarket industry reaches all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally there are 21,000 independently owned supermarkets that generate $131 billion in annual sales, representing nearly 25% of the total domestic market.

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