

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, AS "NEW MEXICO FOOD
3 AND FARMS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming
6 culture that is significant to rural economy and provides
7 employment opportunities on farms; in direct wholesale and
8 retail opportunities; and in food processing, distribution
9 and value-added businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every one dollar
11 (\$1.00) that goes to local agricultural producers, one dollar
12 eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local economy; and

13 WHEREAS, if every New Mexican consumer purchased only
14 fifteen percent of the consumer's food from the state's
15 farmers and ranchers, it would increase annual farm income by
16 three hundred ninety-two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

17 WHEREAS, seventy-two farmers markets are serving
18 New Mexico produce to thirty-six thousand people per week in
19 thirty counties by direct sales, electronic benefit transfer
20 allotments, the women, infant and children program and senior
21 farmers market nutrition programs; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2012, New Mexico farmers markets had annual
23 gross sales of eight million four hundred seventy thousand
24 dollars (\$8,470,000); and

25 WHEREAS, currently, more than twenty-five New Mexico

1 farmers sell to over sixty school districts serving more than
2 two hundred forty thousand schoolchildren New Mexico grown
3 fruits and vegetables, enhancing the diets of schoolchildren,
4 promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing academic
5 achievement; and

6 WHEREAS, an investment in children's health will help
7 stem the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico, where
8 thirty-two percent of children are overweight or obese; and

9 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the
10 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars
11 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an
12 additional one billion two hundred million dollars
13 (\$1,200,000,000) for diabetes treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, increased investment from the state legislature
15 enables schools to feature New Mexico grown produce and meet
16 federal nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits and
17 vegetables to New Mexico children and support economic
18 development opportunities for local farmers, entrepreneurs
19 and communities; and

20 WHEREAS, capital outlay projects and general
21 appropriations are means by which to expand New Mexico
22 produce markets; and

23 WHEREAS, creating community kitchens can accelerate the
24 growth of rural food entrepreneurs, using a proven model of
25 kitchen incubation as exemplified by the "Mixing Bowl"

1 project, a federal food-and-drug-administration-certified
2 commercial kitchen at Albuquerque's south valley economic
3 development center; and

4 WHEREAS, the number of New Mexico's community and school
5 gardens is growing and they provide an important way for
6 children and families to engage in growing food and provide a
7 way for children to learn about nutrition and life sciences;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, programs such as
10 FoodCorps and AmeriCorps, whose volunteers devote a year of
11 their lives to local communities, have built or expanded
12 hundreds of garden projects, donated thousands of pounds of
13 garden produce, engaged hundreds of community volunteers and
14 reached students throughout New Mexico;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Wednesday, January 29, 2014, be
17 declared "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the senate as
18 acknowledgment that the time has come to invest in New
19 Mexico's children, economy and future by supporting farmers,
20 farmers markets and food entrepreneurs and by encouraging
21 public schools and others to continue and expand the purchase
22 of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the New Mexico food and agriculture policy
25 council, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the

1 public education department.

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