

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015, "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND
3 FARMS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming
6 culture that is significant to rural economies 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
12 dollar eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local
13 economy; and

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

19 WHEREAS, seventy-five farmers' markets are serving
20 New Mexico produce to thirty-six thousand people per week in
21 thirty-one counties; and

22 WHEREAS, farmers' markets support New Mexico's economic
23 and nutritional health, and food access programs such as the
24 supplemental nutrition assistance program, the women,
25 infants and children special supplemental nutrition program

1 and senior farmers' market nutrition programs to create more
2 than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in annual
3 fresh food sales to small farmers; and

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

7 WHEREAS, currently, more than twenty-five New Mexico
8 farmers sell to more than sixty school districts serving
9 more than two hundred forty thousand schoolchildren
10 New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables, enhancing the
11 diets of schoolchildren, promoting healthier lifestyles and
12 increasing academic achievement; and

13 WHEREAS, current state funds of three hundred three
14 thousand dollars (\$303,000) have been awarded to thirty
15 school food authorities specifically to purchase
16 New Mexico-grown produce for school meals; and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, increased investment from the state

1 legislature enables schools to feature New Mexico-grown
2 produce and meet federal nutrition requirements, serve more
3 fresh fruits and vegetables to New Mexico children and
4 support economic development opportunities for local
5 farmers, entrepreneurs and communities; and

6 WHEREAS, capital outlay projects and general
7 appropriations are means by which to expand New Mexico
8 produce markets, food hubs and community kitchens; and

9 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and
10 distribution centers and community kitchens can accelerate
11 the growth of farmers and rural entrepreneurs; and

12 WHEREAS, the number of New Mexico's community and
13 school gardens is growing, and they provide an important way
14 for children and families to engage in growing food and a
15 way for children to learn about nutrition and life sciences;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, programs such as
18 FoodCorps, whose volunteers devote a year of their lives to
19 local communities, served over nineteen thousand New Mexico
20 students, have built or expanded forty-six school and
21 community garden projects, donated over two thousand pounds
22 of garden produce, engaged close to one thousand four
23 hundred community volunteers and reached students throughout
24 New Mexico;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Wednesday, January 28, 2015, be
2 declared "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the senate as
3 acknowledgment that the time has come to invest in
4 New Mexico's children, economy and future by supporting
5 farmers, farmers' markets and food entrepreneurs and by
6 encouraging public schools and others to continue and expand
7 the purchase of New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the New Mexico food and agriculture policy
10 council, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the
11 public education department. _____

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