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SENATE MEMORIAL 12

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING NEW MEXICO'S FOOD AND FARMING CULTURE; DECLARING  
JANUARY 25, 2013 "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's vibrant food and farming culture is important to its rural economy and promotes employment on farms, in direct, wholesale and retail settings and in food processing, distribution and value-added businesses; and

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

WHEREAS, if New Mexican consumers were to purchase just fifteen percent of their food from New Mexico's farmers and ranchers, annual farm income would increase by three hundred ninety-two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

WHEREAS, sixty-seven farmers' markets in twenty-seven New

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1 Mexico counties provide New Mexico-grown produce to thirty-five  
2 thousand people per week through direct sales, electronic  
3 benefit transfer allotments and the senior farmers' market  
4 nutrition program; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2011, those farmers' markets had gross sales  
6 of six million two hundred thousand dollars (\$6,200,000); and

7 WHEREAS, the "Mixing Bowl" project, which features a  
8 United States department of agriculture-certified commercial  
9 kitchen, is a successful business incubator of Albuquerque's  
10 south valley economic development center; and

11 WHEREAS, the creation of more kitchen-business incubators  
12 like the "Mixing Bowl" would accelerate the growth of rural  
13 food entrepreneurs; and

14 WHEREAS, more than fifty New Mexico farmers sell New  
15 Mexico-grown produce to fifty-three school districts, which  
16 then serve that fresh, homegrown food to two hundred thirty-  
17 four thousand schoolchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, access to fresh fruits and vegetables enriches  
19 children's diets, promotes healthy lifestyles and improves  
20 academic achievement; and

21 WHEREAS, investing in children's health would help stem  
22 the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico, where thirty-two  
23 percent of all children are overweight or obese; and

24 WHEREAS, making New Mexicans healthier would save the  
25 state three hundred twenty-four million dollars (\$324,000,000)

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1 in obesity-related health care expenses and one billion two  
2 hundred million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related  
3 health care expenses; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico's community and school gardens are an  
5 important way for children and families to grow food and to  
6 learn about nutrition and the life sciences; and

7 WHEREAS, programs such as foodcorps and Americorps, whose  
8 volunteers devote one year to serving local communities, have  
9 built and expanded hundreds of garden projects, donated  
10 thousands of pounds of garden produce, engaged hundreds of  
11 community volunteers and reached out to students throughout New  
12 Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, increased investment by the legislature would  
14 enable schools to serve more New Mexican-grown produce to  
15 children and would support the economic development of local  
16 farmers, entrepreneurs and communities; and

17 WHEREAS, capital outlay projects and funding are a means  
18 of expanding New Mexico's farmers' markets;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the time has come to invest in New Mexico's  
21 children, its economy and its future; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 25, 2013 be declared  
23 "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the senate; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to farm to table.

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