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HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Don L. Tripp

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, AS "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to rural economy and provides employment opportunities on farms; in direct, wholesale and retail opportunities; 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 every New Mexican consumer purchased only fifteen percent of the consumer's food from the state's farmers and ranchers, it would increase annual farm income by three hundred ninety-two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

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1 WHEREAS, seventy-two farmers markets are serving New
2 Mexico produce to thirty-six thousand people per week in thirty
3 counties by direct sales, electronic benefit transfer
4 allotments, the women, infant and children program and senior
5 farmers market nutrition programs; and

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, increased investment from the state legislature
24 enables schools to feature New Mexico grown produce and meet
25 federal nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits and

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1 vegetables to New Mexico children, and support economic
2 development opportunities for local farmers, entrepreneurs and
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, capital outlay projects and general
5 appropriations are means by which to expand New Mexico produce
6 markets; and

7 WHEREAS, creating community kitchens can accelerate the
8 growth of rural food entrepreneurs, using a proven model of
9 kitchen incubation as exemplified by the "Mixing Bowl" project,
10 a federal food-and-drug-administration-certified commercial
11 kitchen at Albuquerque's south valley economic development
12 center; and

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

17 WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, programs such as FoodCorps
18 and AmeriCorps, whose volunteers devote a year of their lives
19 to local communities, have built or expanded hundreds of garden
20 projects, donated thousands of pounds of garden produce,
21 engaged hundreds of community volunteers and reached students
22 throughout New Mexico;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Wednesday,
25 January 29, 2014, be declared "New Mexico Food and Farms Day"

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1 in the house of representatives as acknowledgment that the time
2 has come to invest in New Mexico's children, economy and future
3 by supporting farmers, farmers markets and food entrepreneurs
4 and by encouraging public schools and others to continue and
5 expand the purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables;
6 and

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