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SENATE MEMORIAL 19

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016, "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to rural economies 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 Mexico 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-five farmers' markets are serving New  
2 Mexico produce to thirty-six thousand people per week in  
3 thirty-one counties; and

4           WHEREAS, farmers' markets support New Mexico's economic  
5 and nutritional health, and food access programs, such as the  
6 supplemental nutrition assistance program; the special  
7 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children;  
8 and senior farmers' market nutrition programs, to create more  
9 than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in annual fresh  
10 food sales by small farmers; and

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

14           WHEREAS, currently, more than twenty-five New Mexico  
15 farmers sell to more than sixty school districts serving more  
16 than two hundred forty thousand schoolchildren New Mexico-grown  
17 fruits and vegetables, enhancing the diets of schoolchildren,  
18 promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing academic  
19 achievement; and

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

24           WHEREAS, an investment in children's health will help stem  
25 the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico, where thirty-two

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1 percent of children are overweight or obese; and

2 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the  
3 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars  
4 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an  
5 additional one billion two hundred million dollars  
6 (\$1,200,000,000) for diabetes treatment; and

7 WHEREAS, increased investment from the state legislature  
8 enables schools to feature New Mexico-grown produce and meet  
9 federal nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits and  
10 vegetables to New Mexico children and support economic  
11 development opportunities for local farmers, entrepreneurs and  
12 communities; and

13 WHEREAS, capital outlay projects and general  
14 appropriations are means by which to expand New Mexico produce  
15 markets, food hubs and community kitchens; and

16 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and  
17 distribution centers and community kitchens can accelerate the  
18 growth in the member of farmers and rural entrepreneurs; and

19 WHEREAS, the number of New Mexico's community and school  
20 gardens is growing, and they provide an important way for  
21 children and families to engage in growing food and a way for  
22 children to learn about nutrition and life sciences; and

23 WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, programs such as FoodCorps,  
24 whose volunteers devote a year of their lives to local  
25 communities, served more than nineteen thousand New Mexico

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1 students, have built or expanded forty-six school and community  
2 garden projects, donated over two thousand pounds of garden  
3 produce, engaged close to one thousand four hundred community  
4 volunteers and reached students throughout New Mexico;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
6 OF NEW MEXICO that Wednesday, February 3, 2016, be declared  
7 "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the senate as acknowledgment  
8 that the time has come to invest in New Mexico's children,  
9 economy and future by supporting farmers, farmers' markets and  
10 food entrepreneurs and by encouraging public schools and others  
11 to continue and expand the purchase of New Mexico-grown fruits  
12 and vegetables; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the New Mexico food and agriculture policy  
15 council, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the  
16 public education department.

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