

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ENCOURAGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
3 PROTECT PROGRAMS VITAL TO NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMY AND TO NEW  
4 MEXICO FAMILIES FUNDED BY THE 2018 FEDERAL FARM BILL.

5  
6 WHEREAS, New Mexico's agrarian roots are thousands of  
7 years old, and for the last five hundred years, diverse  
8 cultures have cultivated and been sustained by farming and  
9 ranching; and

10 WHEREAS, today, the New Mexico agriculture sector  
11 provides food, fiber and fuel to consumers around the globe;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico agriculture sector is one of the  
14 state's principal economic drivers, with a total output  
15 valued at more than three billion dollars (\$3,000,000,000)  
16 annually, in addition to directly supporting more than  
17 twenty-three thousand jobs; and

18 WHEREAS, as requested by a 2017 house memorial, the New  
19 Mexico state university cooperative extension service and New  
20 Mexico first developed the resilience in New Mexico  
21 agriculture strategic plan, in order to systematically  
22 address the unprecedented issues facing the agriculture  
23 sector; and

24 WHEREAS, after thirteen regional meetings, task force  
25 deliberations and public comment, the resilience in New

1 Mexico agriculture strategic plan recommends strategies to  
2 achieve greater agricultural and natural resources  
3 resiliency, as well as a secure future for the generations of  
4 farmers and ranchers to come; and

5 WHEREAS, imperative to New Mexico agriculture's  
6 resilience and New Mexico's economic vitality is a broad  
7 array of food and development programs, administered by the  
8 United States department of agriculture, through the federal  
9 Agricultural Act of 2014, known as "the farm bill",  
10 authorized by the United States congress approximately every  
11 five years; and

12 WHEREAS, congress is considering legislative action for  
13 the 2018 federal farm bill; and

14 WHEREAS, the resilience in New Mexico agriculture task  
15 force believes that the federal farm bill is vital to New  
16 Mexico and to the health, safety and well-being of its  
17 communities and of its residents, as well as to the goals and  
18 strategies of the working group; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico has long been the "chile capital of  
20 the world", and New Mexico has become the seventh-highest  
21 milk-producing state and one of the top three pecan-producing  
22 states in the nation; and

23 WHEREAS, dairy farmers and other commodity growers must  
24 navigate risks not faced by other private businesses in New  
25 Mexico, and the federal farm bill enables the farm credit

1 system to provide disaster assistance, crop insurance, margin  
2 protection and other risk-management tools that provide an  
3 income safety net; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second-highest acreage in  
5 enrollment in the conservation stewardship program, and the  
6 federal farm bill contributed nearly forty million dollars  
7 (\$40,000,000) in 2016 to farmers' and ranchers' voluntary  
8 conservation initiatives to prevent soil erosion, preserve  
9 and restore wetlands, clean the air and water and enhance  
10 wildlife; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2016, New Mexico shared with other states  
12 part of two hundred forty-three million dollars  
13 (\$243,000,000) authorized for export initiatives, such as the  
14 market access program and foreign market development program;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the federal farm bill provides food assistance  
17 and nutrition education to families and enables low-income  
18 children and seniors to access fresh, healthy foods through  
19 programs like the supplemental nutrition assistance program;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2016, the supplemental nutrition  
22 assistance program provided about six hundred ninety million  
23 dollars (\$690,000,000) in food benefits to a monthly average  
24 of more than four hundred seventy-one thousand New Mexicans,  
25 creating a multiplier effect of one dollar eighty cents

1 (\$1.80) for every one dollar (\$1.00) invested in the  
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

3 WHEREAS, thanks to the federal farm bill, the United  
4 States department of agriculture rural development invested  
5 more than seven hundred million dollars (\$700,000,000) from  
6 2009 to 2015 to stimulate job and economic growth in New  
7 Mexico's rural and tribal areas; and

8 WHEREAS, federal-farm-bill-funded research and extension  
9 programs delivered by New Mexico state university empower  
10 large and small agricultural operations to compete with and  
11 outperform farmers in other countries by being more  
12 efficient, more innovative and more productive with limited  
13 resources; and

14 WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have a vested interest in  
15 seeing New Mexico's forests flourishing, and the federal farm  
16 bill provides tools to mitigate wildfires, manage public  
17 access and protect livestock; and

18 WHEREAS, agriculture has played a critical role in  
19 increasing the availability of home-grown and renewable  
20 energy sources, making New Mexico a leader in energy  
21 development, and the federal farm bill will further advance  
22 the adoption of new technologies by farmers and ranchers; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico is proud to be a significant  
24 specialty crop-producing state, made possible through the  
25 federal farm bill, which supports producers' efforts to

1 enhance specialty crops through the specialty crop block  
2 grant program, as well as efforts to detect and eradicate  
3 invasive pests; and

4 WHEREAS, farm service agency loan guarantees and  
5 financing programs, supported by the federal farm bill, make  
6 farming and value-added agricultural operations accessible to  
7 tribal members, beginners, minorities, women and urban  
8 producers, in addition to enabling farms and ranches to be  
9 transferred to the next generation;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New  
12 Mexico congressional delegation be strongly encouraged to  
13 protect New Mexico's interests, as they relate to the 2018  
14 federal farm bill, to provide income stability for farmers  
15 and ranchers, to support next-generation farmers and  
16 ranchers, to protect land and natural resources, to open and  
17 ensure access to global markets, to empower rural and tribal  
18 communities and to help New Mexico families access nutritious  
19 foods; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional  
22 delegation.

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