

1 A MEMORIAL

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

5
6 WHEREAS, New Mexico's vibrant food and farming culture
7 is important to its rural economy and promotes employment on
8 farms, in direct, wholesale and retail settings and in food
9 processing, distribution 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 dollar
12 eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local economy; and

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

17 WHEREAS, sixty-seven farmers' markets in twenty-seven
18 New Mexico counties provide New Mexico-grown produce to
19 thirty-five thousand people per week through direct sales,
20 electronic benefit transfer allotments and the senior farmers'
21 market nutrition program; and

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

24 WHEREAS, the "Mixing Bowl" project, which features a
25 United States department of agriculture-certified commercial

1 kitchen, is a successful business incubator of Albuquerque's
2 south valley economic development center; and

3 WHEREAS, the creation of more kitchen-business
4 incubators like the "Mixing Bowl" would accelerate the growth
5 of rural food entrepreneurs; and

6 WHEREAS, more than fifty New Mexico farmers sell
7 New Mexico-grown produce to fifty-three school districts,
8 which then serve that fresh, homegrown food to two hundred
9 thirty-four thousand schoolchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, access to fresh fruits and vegetables enriches
11 children's diets, promotes healthy lifestyles and improves
12 academic achievement; and

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

16 WHEREAS, making New Mexicans healthier would save the
17 state three hundred twenty-four million dollars (\$324,000,000)
18 in obesity-related health care expenses and one billion two
19 hundred million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related
20 health care expenses; and

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

24 WHEREAS, programs such as foodcorps and Americorps,
25 whose volunteers devote one year to serving local communities,

1 have built and expanded hundreds of garden projects, donated
2 thousands of pounds of garden produce, engaged hundreds of
3 community volunteers and reached out to students throughout
4 New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, increased investment by the legislature would
6 enable schools to serve more New Mexican-grown produce to
7 children and would support the economic development of local
8 farmers, entrepreneurs and communities; and

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

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

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to farm to table. _____