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HOUSE MEMORIAL 13

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

INTRODUCED BY

Don L. Tripp

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25           WHEREAS, making New Mexicans healthier would save the

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1 state three hundred twenty-four million dollars (\$324,000,000)  
2 in obesity-related health care expenses and one billion two  
3 hundred million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related  
4 health care expenses; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 25, 2013 be declared  
25 "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the house of

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1 representatives; and

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

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