

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Rebecca Dow and Derrick J. Lente

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 20, 2017 "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 the rural economy and provides employment opportunities on farms, such as wholesale and retail opportunities and in food processing, distribution and value-added business; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every dollar that goes to local agricultural producers, one dollar eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, if New Mexico consumers purchased only fifteen percent of their 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

.207143.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, state funds of three hundred thirty-five thousand
2 dollars (\$335,000) have been awarded to fifty-one school food
3 authorities specifically to purchase New Mexico-grown produce
4 for school meals, enhancing the diets of three hundred forty-
5 seven thousand students, promoting healthier lifestyles and
6 increasing academic achievement; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, seventy-five farmers markets are providing New
16 Mexico products to forty-five thousand people each week in
17 thirty-one counties by direct sales and through the
18 supplemental nutrition assistance program, the special
19 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children
20 and senior farmers' market nutrition programs, resulting in
21 annual gross sales of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in 2016;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, eighty double up food bucks outlets, including
24 farmers' markets, grocery stores, farm stands and mobile
25 markets, are making it more affordable for supplemental

.207143.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 nutritional assistance program participants across the state to
2 increase the amount of fresh, New Mexico-grown produce that
3 they eat while providing farmers with more than seven hundred
4 fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in electronic benefits
5 transfer sales during 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the
7 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars
8 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an
9 additional one billion two hundred million dollars
10 (\$1,200,000,000) for diabetes; and

11 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and
12 distribution centers and community kitchens could accelerate
13 the growth of farmers and rural food entrepreneurs; and

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

18 WHEREAS, to achieve these goals, programs such as
19 foodcorps, americorps, food policy councils, health councils,
20 health equity partnerships, community outreach patient
21 empowerment and many other organizations and agencies help to
22 coordinate programs and make the connections between health,
23 the built environment and policies;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize

.207143.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 that the time has come to invest in New Mexico's children,
2 economy and future; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 20, 2017 be declared
4 "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the house of
5 representatives; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the executive director of New Mexico farmers'
8 marketing association.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25