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SENATE MEMORIAL 59

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 20, 2017 "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

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

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

22           WHEREAS, eighty double up food bucks outlets, including  
23 farmers' markets, grocery stores, farm stands and mobile  
24 markets, are making it more affordable for supplemental  
25 nutritional assistance program participants across the state to

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

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
24 OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize that the time has come to  
25 invest in New Mexico's children, economy and future; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 20, 2017 be declared  
2 "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the senate; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the executive director of New Mexico farmers'  
5 marketing association.