

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 23, 2018 "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS DAY" IN  
3 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4  
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming  
6 culture that is significant to the rural economy and provides  
7 employment opportunities on farms, such as wholesale and  
8 retail opportunities and in food processing, distribution and  
9 value-added business; 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 Mexico consumers purchased only fifteen  
14 percent of their food from the state's farmers and ranchers,  
15 it would increase annual farm income by three hundred ninety-  
16 two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

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

20 WHEREAS, increased investment from the legislature  
21 enables schools to feature New Mexico-grown produce and to  
22 meet federal nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits  
23 and vegetables to children and support economic development  
24 opportunities for local farmers, entrepreneurs and  
25 communities; and

1           WHEREAS, over the last five years, more than fifty-one  
2 school food authorities have purchased New Mexico-grown  
3 produce for school meals with state funds, enhancing the  
4 diets of three hundred forty-seven thousand students,  
5 promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing academic  
6 achievement, while more than one million two hundred thousand  
7 dollars (\$1,200,000) has benefited New Mexico's farming  
8 economy; and

9           WHEREAS, seventy-five farmers are providing New Mexico  
10 products to forty-five thousand people each week in thirty-  
11 one counties by direct sales and through the supplemental  
12 nutrition assistance program, the special supplemental  
13 nutrition program for women, infants and children and senior  
14 farmers' market nutrition programs, creating fresh food  
15 access for low-income individuals and resulting in annual  
16 gross sales to farmers of seven million five hundred thousand  
17 dollars (\$7,500,000) in 2017; and

18           WHEREAS, eighty double up food bucks outlets, including  
19 farmers' markets, grocery stores, farm stands and mobile  
20 markets, are making it more affordable for supplemental  
21 nutritional assistance program participants across the state  
22 to increase the amount of fresh, New Mexico-grown produce  
23 that they eat while providing eight hundred New Mexico  
24 farmers with more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in  
25 electronic benefits transfer sales during 2017; and

1           WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the  
2 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars  
3 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an  
4 additional one billion two hundred million dollars  
5 (\$1,200,000,000) for diabetes; and

6           WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and  
7 distribution centers and community kitchens could accelerate  
8 the growth of farmers and rural food entrepreneurs; and

9           WHEREAS, the growing number of New Mexico community and  
10 school gardens provides an important way for children and  
11 families to engage in growing food and provides a way for  
12 children to learn about nutrition and life sciences; and

13           WHEREAS, to achieve these goals, agricultural, health  
14 and education-related organizations and agencies help  
15 coordinate programs and make the connections among health,  
16 the built environment and policies through the support of  
17 organizations such as food policy councils, health councils,  
18 health equity partnerships, foodcorps, americorps, 4-H, farm-  
19 to-school programs and others;

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

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 23, 2018 be declared  
25 "New Mexico Food and Farms Day" in the house of

1 representatives; and

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

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