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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 24, 2019 "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS AND SCHOOL NUTRITION 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, in direct, wholesale and retail outlets and food processing, distribution and value-added business; 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 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

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

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the national school lunch program, school breakfast program and summer food service have provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to school children throughout New Mexico for more than seventy years; and

WHEREAS, the school nutrition and summer meal programs

1 serve healthy meals, free and at low cost, to students in  
2 New Mexico schools; and

3 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs not only feed hungry  
4 children and support family well-being, but also act as  
5 "economic stabilizers" during economic downturns; and

6 WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of  
7 their daily calories at school, and for many children, food  
8 served at school is the only meal they eat daily; and

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

15 WHEREAS, over the last six years, more than fifty-seven  
16 school food authorities have purchased New Mexico-grown  
17 produce for school meals with state funds, enhancing the diets  
18 of three hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred students,  
19 promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing academic  
20 achievement, while close to two million dollars (\$2,000,000)  
21 has benefited New Mexico's farming economy; and

22 WHEREAS, seventy farmers' markets are providing  
23 New Mexico products to forty-five thousand people each week in  
24 thirty-one counties by direct sales and through the  
25 supplemental nutrition assistance program, the special

1 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children  
2 and senior farmers' market nutrition programs, creating fresh  
3 food access for low-income individuals and resulting in annual  
4 gross sales to farmers of over seven million five hundred  
5 thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) in 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, eighty double up food bucks outlets, including  
7 farmers' markets, grocery stores, farm stands and mobile  
8 markets, are making it more affordable for supplemental  
9 nutritional assistance program participants across the state  
10 to increase the amount of fresh, New Mexico-grown produce that  
11 they eat while providing nine hundred seventy New Mexico  
12 farmers with more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in  
13 electronic benefits transfer sales during 2018; and

14 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the  
15 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars  
16 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an  
17 additional one billion two hundred million dollars  
18 (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related health care expenses; and

19 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and  
20 distribution centers and community kitchens could accelerate  
21 the economic growth of farmers and rural food entrepreneurs;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the growing number of New Mexico community and  
24 school gardens provides an important way for children and  
25 families to engage in growing food and provides a way for

1 children to learn about nutrition and life sciences; and

2 WHEREAS, to achieve these goals, agricultural, health  
3 and education-related organizations and agencies help  
4 coordinate programs and make the connections among health, the  
5 built environment and policies through the support of  
6 organizations such as food policy councils, health councils,  
7 health equity partnerships, foodcorps, americorps, 4-H, farm  
8 to school programs and others;

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

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 24, 2019 be declared  
13 "New Mexico Food and Farms and School Nutrition Day" in the  
14 senate; and

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

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