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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

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

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

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

9           WHEREAS, the school nutrition and summer meal programs  
10 serve healthy meals, free and at low cost, to students in New  
11 Mexico schools; and

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

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

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

23           WHEREAS, over the last six years, more than fifty-seven  
24 school food authorities have purchased New Mexico-grown produce  
25 for school meals with state funds, enhancing the diets of three

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1 hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred students, promoting  
2 healthier lifestyles and increasing academic achievement, while  
3 close to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) has benefited New  
4 Mexico's farming economy; and

5 WHEREAS, seventy farmers' markets are providing New Mexico  
6 products to forty-five thousand people each week in thirty-one  
7 counties by direct sales and through the supplemental nutrition  
8 assistance program, the special supplemental nutrition program  
9 for women, infants and children and senior farmers' market  
10 nutrition programs, creating fresh food access for low-income  
11 individuals and resulting in annual gross sales to farmers of  
12 over seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000)  
13 in 2018; and

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

22 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the  
23 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars  
24 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an  
25 additional one billion two hundred million dollars

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1 (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related health care expenses; and

2 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and  
3 distribution centers and community kitchens could accelerate  
4 the economic growth of farmers and rural food entrepreneurs;  
5 and

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

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

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

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

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico  
25 farmers' marketing association.

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