

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1114.01 Darren Thornberry x4143

SJR17-023

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-023

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 22, 2017, AS "COLORADO**
102 **AGRICULTURE DAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Americans enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most
2 affordable food supply in the world, thanks largely to the efficiency and
3 productivity of America's farm and ranch families; and

4 WHEREAS, Worldwide demand for food is expected to double by
5 2050 as the world's population expands from the current 7.5 billion to 9.5
6 billion, challenging farmers and ranchers to produce more food, feed,
7 fiber, and fuel; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, 99% of U.S. farms and ranches are operated
9 by families, and each feeds an estimated 168 people, a dramatic increase
10 from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 25 people; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, Americans spend less than 7% of their annual income
2 on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers
3 and ranchers receive on average only about 16 cents of every dollar spent
4 on food; and

5 WHEREAS, American farmers and ranchers are the most capable
6 and responsible providers for the safety, health, and well-being of their
7 livestock; and

8 WHEREAS, Agriculture ranks among the most important
9 economic sectors in Colorado, supporting more than 170,000 jobs and
10 generating an estimated \$41 billion of economic activity annually; and

11 WHEREAS, Exports of Colorado food and agricultural products
12 have more than tripled in the past 20 years and totaled \$1.7 billion in
13 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture contributes to national security
15 not only by providing food and fiber, but also by producing energy; and

16 WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes landowners whose livelihood
17 depends upon the property they reside on, operate on, and care for as they
18 work to provide basic necessities to all; and

19 WHEREAS, Leadership is vital to the viability of the agriculture
20 industry, and participants in programs like the National FFA
21 Organization, 4-H, and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program
22 help develop those leadership skills necessary to promote agriculture and
23 educate their urban cousins on the importance of agriculture to the world;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate,
26 reliable workforce in order to provide food from the field to the table; and

27 WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide wildlife
28 habitat, open space, and a site for innovative and sustainable farming
29 practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

30 WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural producers provide a diverse
31 and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, dairy, sheep,
32 hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, and aquaculture, as well

1 as field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, sorghum,
2 sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine grapes, fruit,
3 numerous other vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal
6 husbandry practices, ensuring that livestock remain healthy, productive,
7 and content; and

8 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture provides an estimated \$67.5
9 million annually to support the state's wildlife; and

10 WHEREAS, Colorado's farmers and ranchers are innovative
11 entrepreneurs and business leaders who remain resilient in their
12 dedication to the continued prosperity of the state's agriculture; and

13 WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of
14 landowners who provide wholesome, safe food to Americans and others
15 worldwide is essential; and

16 WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers are critical to Colorado
17 agritourism, welcoming tourists from around the world and showing them
18 all Colorado has to offer; and

19 WHEREAS, Losing agricultural land and water to other uses will
20 result in overall negative impacts to the state's economy and a loss of food
21 production vital to all Coloradans; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States' national security is stronger
23 because farmers provide more than enough food to keep this country from
24 depending on other nations for sustenance; and

25 WHEREAS, March 21, 2017, is "National Agriculture Day"; now,
26 therefore,

27 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
28 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

29 That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize
30 and designate "Colorado Agriculture Day" on March 22, 2017, in
31 celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the nation's
32 agriculture industry; promote a safe, high-quality, and sustainable food

1 supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

2 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
3 to the Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner
4 of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado
5 congressional delegation.