



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-023

BY SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Catlin and Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Duran.

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

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

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

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

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

food; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural producers provide a diverse and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, dairy, sheep, hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, and aquaculture, as well as field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, sorghum, sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine grapes, fruit, numerous other vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize and designate "Colorado Agriculture Day" on March 22, 2017, in celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the nation's agriculture industry; promote a safe, high-quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to

the Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado congressional delegation.

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES