

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

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HR26-1005

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Martinez, Bacon, Camacho, Duran, Garcia, Jackson, Joseph, Mabrey, Nguyen, Rutinel, Velasco, Zokaie

House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 26-1005

101 **CONCERNING RENAMING STATE HIGHWAY 47, IN PUEBLO, COLORADO,**
102 **"DOLORES HUERTA BOULEVARD".**

1 WHEREAS, Born in 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico, a mountain
2 mining town in the northern part of the state, Dolores Huerta spent most
3 of her early years in California, where she was raised by her mother,
4 Alicia, who, after years of hard work as a waitress and factory worker,
5 opened a small hotel and restaurant, where she often offered free meals
6 and lodging to migrant workers and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, Huerta studied education in college and became a
8 teacher for a short time; it was this experience, when she saw her young
9 charges, the children of farmworkers, arrive to school in bare feet and
10 study while hungry, that compelled her to devote her life to the people
11 who, the inaugural Poet Laureate of Albuquerque Hakim Bellamy wrote,
12 "power dreams / and profit / and are for granted / and are forgotten"; and

13 WHEREAS, In the late 1950s, as part of the Community Service
14 Organization, she began lobbying for health coverage for farmworkers
15 and working on voter registration drives; in 1962, she co-founded the
16 National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) to fight to ensure that

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 farmworkers were treated with dignity, that they were paid enough to feed
2 their families, and that they were provided rest periods, cold drinking
3 water, and toilets in the fields; and

4 WHEREAS, By 1963, with Huerta's lobbying help, the NFWA had
5 helped secure disability insurance and state public assistance for the
6 workers on California's farms; and

7 WHEREAS, During a coordinated and ultimately successful grape
8 worker strike and boycott in 1965, the NFWA merged with the
9 Filipino-American and Mexican-American farmworkers of the
10 Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee to become the United Farm
11 Workers of America (UFW), and Dolores Huerta was elected Vice
12 President, the organization's only female leader; and

13 WHEREAS, Huerta would remain UFW's Vice President for
14 decades, and the UFW would go on to energize a worldwide movement
15 that would partner with civil rights organizations and religious leaders
16 and inspire people across the country and on every continent; and

17 WHEREAS, Those inspired included lettuce workers on strike in
18 Center, Colorado, in the San Luis Valley in the early 1970s, who were
19 supported by the UFW as they sought fair wages and more humane
20 working conditions; and

21 WHEREAS, Huerta advocated for the entire family's participation
22 in the movement, as farmworkers often lived on the farms where they
23 toiled, and they protested as families as well--while men marched and
24 women picketed, childcare was provided by the UFW, the first
25 farmworker daycare in the state of California; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1972, when Arizona passed a bill that prevented
27 farmworkers, and only those workers, from unionizing and that punished
28 strikers and boycotters with prison time, at a meeting when a worried
29 participant said, "In Arizona no se puede", Huerta responded, "No, in
30 Arizona, sí, se puede!" and a movement's slogan was born; "Sí, se
31 puede!" is a refrain that still inspires today; and

32 WHEREAS, With Huerta as one of their most prominent
33 spokespersons, the UFW helped pass California's "Agricultural Labor
34 Relations Act of 1975", which allowed California farmworkers the right
35 to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working

1 conditions, and the UFW played a vital role in the campaign to outlaw
2 DDT, the pesticide that posed serious health risks to farmworkers, which
3 was first banned not by the government but in a UFW union contract; and

4 WHEREAS, Awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights
5 Award in 1998 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, she is
6 now the president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, a "continuation of
7 the nonviolent civil rights movement of the 1970s", the foundation sends
8 full-time organizers to create "Vecinos Unidos", or "United Neighbors"
9 groups, to train, support, and mobilize communities to interact with
10 government officials and maneuver within complex political systems for
11 their benefit; Vecinos Unidos have successfully raised funding for road
12 and sidewalk repairs, sewer expansions, education equity, local parks, and
13 other powerful community projects; now, therefore,

14 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
15 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

16 (1) That Dolores Huerta and the farmworkers she has dedicated
17 her life to raising up deserve the recognition of the people of Colorado;

18 (2) That State Highway 47, located in Pueblo County, Colorado,
19 be renamed "Dolores Huerta Boulevard"; and

20 (3) That it is fitting and proper that money from gifts, grants, and
21 donations be used to pay for appropriate signage indicating the highway's
22 new name.