

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1097.01 Melanie Pawlyszyn x2802

SJR16-017

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Coram,

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-017

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 16, 2016, AS
102 AGRICULTURE DAY IN COLORADO.

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, As the world's population is predicted to grow from
5 7 billion to 9 billion by 2045, and the worldwide demand for food will
6 double by 2050, farmers and ranchers face the challenge of producing
7 more food, feed, fiber, and fuel; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, 97% of all U.S. farms are family owned, and
9 each American farmer feeds more than 156 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 9% of their annual income
2 on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers
3 and ranchers receive on average only 15.8 cents of every dollar spent on
4 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, The agriculture industry is the second largest industry
9 in Colorado, supporting more than 173,000 jobs in Colorado and
10 contributing \$41 billion to the state's economy; and

11 WHEREAS, Colorado was responsible for exporting more than \$2
12 billion in food and agricultural products in 2014; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 numerous other vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products;
2 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, March 15, 2016, is "National Agriculture Day"; now,
21 therefore,

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

24 That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize
25 and designate "Colorado Agriculture Day" on March 16, 2016, in
26 celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the nation's
27 agriculture industry; promote a safe, high-quality, and sustainable food
28 supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

29 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to the Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner
31 of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado
32 congressional delegation.