

**Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. M16-1206.01 Ashley Zimmerman x2291

**SM16-001**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Roberts,**

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**Senate Committees**

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**SENATE MEMORIAL 16-001**

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER STATE SENATOR JAMES "JIM" ISGAR.**

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1           WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague James "Jim" Isgar,  
2 a past member of the Colorado General Assembly, departed this life on  
3 March 4, 2016, at the age of 64; and

4           WHEREAS, Senator Isgar was born May 5, 1951, in Durango,  
5 Colorado, to Anne Louise and Arthur Richard Isgar; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1969, Senator Isgar graduated high school and set  
7 off for the University of Colorado to study engineering, but soon returned  
8 to help with his family farm and completed a Bachelor's Degree in  
9 Accounting from Fort Lewis College; and

10           WHEREAS, Senator Isgar went on to become a Certified Public  
11 Accountant and studied taxation at Colorado State University before  
12 working for a Longmont accounting firm; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1976, Senator Isgar was accepted to law school at  
14 the University of Denver, but did not attend because he said his parents  
15 "would sell the farm if I didn't come back and take it over"; 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, Senator Isgar had an extensive background in water  
2 issues before serving as a State Senator and served on a number of water  
3 boards, including the La Plata and Animas-La Plata conservancy districts,  
4 the Southwestern Water Conservation District, and HH Ditch Co., where  
5 he served 25 years as president; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1988, Governor Roy Romer appointed Senator  
7 Isgar to the Colorado Board of Agriculture, and Senator Isgar was later  
8 appointed to the governing boards for his alma mater Fort Lewis College,  
9 Colorado State University, and the University of Southern Colorado; and

10           WHEREAS, In 2001, Senator Isgar was appointed to the State  
11 Senate to fill a vacancy left by former State Senator Jim Dyer, and he was  
12 re-elected to two more terms in the State Senate; and

13           WHEREAS, During his time as Senator, Senator Isgar served on  
14 the Senate Transportation, Finance, and Agriculture, Natural Resources,  
15 and Energy Committees, and he served on the joint Water Resources  
16 Review Committee, Transportation Legislation Review Committee, and  
17 the Legislative Audit Committee; and

18           WHEREAS, Senator Isgar also served on the Senate Select  
19 Committee on Homeland Security in 2005 and the Senate Select  
20 Committee on Renewable Energy in 2007; and

21           WHEREAS, In 2009, Senator Isgar was appointed as the United  
22 States Department of Agriculture's director of Rural Development for  
23 Colorado by President Barack Obama, and he served as director for the  
24 next four years; and

25           WHEREAS, In the last few years, Senator Isgar returned to his  
26 first love of gardening, and it was not an unusual occurrence to see him  
27 at the local farmer's market selling vegetables and spending time with  
28 various people; and

29           WHEREAS, Senator Isgar was known for his attention to detail  
30 and for his influence over state water law and policy, and he was a strong  
31 champion of education; and

32           WHEREAS, Senator Isgar has been described as a "true  
33 Coloradan" and someone who was "innately good", and his

1 granddaughter Abby has said of him that "it was as if he had a magnet in  
2 his chest that brought people closer to him"; and

3 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the Senate of the  
4 Seventieth General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of  
5 Senator James "Jim" Isgar and express our deep regret and sorrow  
6 occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

7 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*  
8 *of the State of Colorado:*

9 That, in the death of James "Jim" Isgar, the people of the State of  
10 Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen,  
11 and that we, the members of the Senate of the Seventieth General  
12 Assembly, pay tribute to James Isgar for his years of dedicated public  
13 service and do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the  
14 members of his family.

15 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to  
16 Senator Isgar's wife Brenda Isgar; his children Matt Isgar, Andy Isgar,  
17 Sarah Newton, Kate O'Brien, and Caleb Loos; and his mother Anne Isgar.