

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. M16-1206.01 Ashley Zimmerman x2291

SM16-001

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts,

Senate Committees

SENATE MEMORIAL 16-001

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

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
April 4, 2016

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.