



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-009

BY SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg and Donovan, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Hisey, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McCormick and Catlin, Amabile, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bennett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Caraveo, Carver, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Garnett, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Holtorf, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lindsay, Lontine, Luck, Lynch, McCluskie, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Ortiz, Pelton, Pico, Ransom, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woodrow, Woog, Young.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 24, 2022, 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, The world must feed nearly 2 billion more people by 2050, challenging farmers and ranchers to increase production of food, feed, fiber, and fuel by more than 50%; and

WHEREAS, Today, 98% of United States farms and ranches are operated by families, and each feeds an estimated 165 people annually, a dramatic increase from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 26 people; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend less than 8.6% of their annual income on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers

and ranchers receive on average only about 14.3 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 195,000 jobs and generating an estimated \$47 billion of economic activity annually; and

WHEREAS, Exports of Colorado food and agricultural products have increased fourfold since 2000 and reached an all-time high of \$2.36 billion in 2021; and

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

WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes and appreciates 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 Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program help develop those leadership skills necessary to promote agriculture and educate urban populations 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 sites for innovative and sustainable farming practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural and aquacultural producers provide a diverse and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, dairy products, millet, field corn, sweet corn, hemp, quinoa, wheat, hay, chiles, potatoes, barley, sorghum, sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions,

carrots, wine grapes, apples, cantaloupe, watermelon, peaches, numerous other fruits and vegetables, honey, greenhouse and nursery products, and fish; and

WHEREAS, Beyond food, feed, fiber, and fuel, farm products can be found in everyday items from medications to school supplies to musical instruments; 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 agricultural economy; 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 and ranchers provide more than enough food to keep this country from depending on other nations for sustenance; and

WHEREAS, March 22, 2022, is "National Agriculture Day" and the Agriculture Council of America encourages everyone to celebrate Agriculture Day for an entire week; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, proudly recognize and designate March 24, 2022, to be "Colorado Agriculture Day" 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 Jared Polis, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg, and the members of the Colorado congressional delegation.

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Stephen Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Alec Garnett  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES