



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-015

BY SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg, Aguilar, Balmer, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Newell, Roberts, Scheffel, Scott, Steadman, Todd, Ulibarri, Woods, Cadman; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brown and Coram, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Buck, Buckner, Carver, Conti, Court, Danielson, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Esgar, Everett, Fields, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Keyser, Klingenschmitt, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Lontine, Lundeen, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Roupe, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Tate, Thurlow, Tyler, Van Winkle, Vigil, Willett, Williams, Wilson, Windholz, Winter, Young, Hullinghorst.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 18, 2015, AS AGRICULTURE DAY IN COLORADO.

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, As the world's population is predicted to grow from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2045, farmers and ranchers face the challenge of producing more food, feed, fiber, and fuel; and

WHEREAS, Today, 97% of all U.S. farms are family-owned, and each American farmer feeds more than 156 people, a dramatic increase from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 25 people; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend less than 9% of their annual income on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers and

ranchers receive on average only 15.8 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, The agriculture industry is the second largest industry in Colorado, supporting more than 173,000 jobs in Colorado and contributing \$41 billion to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was responsible for exporting more than \$2 billion in food and agricultural products in 2012; and

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

WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes 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, 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 habitats, open space, and a site for innovative and sustainable farming practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural producers provide a diverse and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, and aquaculture; as well as field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, sorghum, sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine grapes, fruit, numerous other vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products; 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 agriculture; 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, March 18, 2015, is "National Agriculture Day"; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize "Agriculture Day" on March 18, 2015, 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 John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado congressional delegation.

Bill L. Cadman
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES