

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R15-0944.01 Darren Thornberry x4143

SJR15-015

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg,

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Brown and Coram,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-015

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 18, 2015, 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, farmers and ranchers face the challenge of
6 producing more food, feed, fiber, and fuel; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, 97% of all U.S. farms are family-owned, and
8 each American farmer feeds more than 156 people, a dramatic increase
9 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 2012; 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, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate,
19 reliable workforce in order to provide food from the field to the table; and

20 WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide wildlife
21 habitats, open space, and a site for innovative and sustainable farming
22 practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

23 WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural producers provide a diverse
24 and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, sheep, hogs,
25 horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, and aquaculture; as well as
26 field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, sorghum, sunflowers,
27 dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine grapes, fruit, numerous other
28 vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products; and

29 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal
30 husbandry practices, ensuring that livestock remain healthy, productive,
31 and content; and

32 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture provides an estimated \$67.5

1 million annually to support the state's wildlife; and

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

5 WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of
6 landowners who provide wholesome, safe food to Americans and others
7 worldwide is essential; and

8 WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers are critical to Colorado
9 agritourism, welcoming tourists from around the world and showing them
10 all Colorado has to offer; and

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

14 WHEREAS, March 18, 2015, is "National Agriculture Day"; now,
15 therefore,

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

18 That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize
19 "Agriculture Day" on March 18, 2015, in celebration of the many men
20 and women who strengthen the nation's agriculture industry; promote a
21 safe, high-quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect consumers,
22 the environment, and natural resources.

23 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
24 to the Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner
25 of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado
26 congressional delegation.