

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 25

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE SARAH MAESTAS BARNES AND REPRESENTATIVE NORA ESPINOZA

AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



A MEMORIAL

DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015, "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to rural economies and provides employment opportunities on farms; in direct wholesale and retail opportunities; and in food processing, distribution and value-added businesses; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every one dollar (\$1.00) that goes to local agricultural producers, one dollar eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, if every New Mexico consumer purchased only fifteen percent of the consumer's food from the state's farmers and ranchers, it would increase annual farm income by three hundred ninety-two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

WHEREAS, seventy-five farmers' markets are serving New Mexico produce to thirty-six thousand people per week in thirty-one counties; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets support New Mexico's economic and nutritional health, and food access programs such as the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the women, infants and children special supplemental nutrition program and senior farmers' market nutrition programs to create more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in annual fresh food sales

1 to small farmers; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2012, New Mexico farmers' markets had annual
3 gross sales of eight million four hundred seventy thousand
4 dollars (\$8,470,000); and

5 WHEREAS, currently, more than twenty-five New Mexico
6 farmers sell to more than sixty school districts serving more
7 than two hundred forty thousand schoolchildren New Mexico-
8 grown fruits and vegetables, enhancing the diets of
9 schoolchildren, promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing
10 academic achievement; and

11 WHEREAS, current state funds of three hundred three
12 thousand dollars (\$303,000) have been awarded to thirty school
13 food authorities specifically to purchase New Mexico-grown
14 produce for school meals; and

15 WHEREAS, an investment in children's health will help
16 stem the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico, where
17 thirty-two percent of children are overweight or obese; and

18 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the
19 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars
20 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an
21 additional one billion two hundred million dollars
22 (\$1,200,000,000) for diabetes treatment; and

23 WHEREAS, increased investment from the state legislature
24 enables schools to feature New Mexico-grown produce and meet
25 federal nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits and

1 vegetables to New Mexico children and support economic
2 development opportunities for local farmers, entrepreneurs and
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, capital outlay projects and general
5 appropriations are means by which to expand New Mexico produce
6 markets, food hubs and community kitchens; and

7 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and
8 distribution centers and community kitchens can accelerate the
9 growth of farmers and rural entrepreneurs; and

10 WHEREAS, the number of New Mexico's community and school
11 gardens is growing, and they provide an important way for
12 children and families to engage in growing food and a way for
13 children to learn about nutrition and life sciences; and

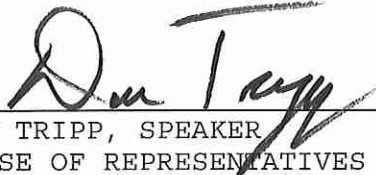
14 WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, programs such as
15 FoodCorps, whose volunteers devote a year of their lives to
16 local communities, served over nineteen thousand New Mexico
17 students, have built or expanded forty-six school and
18 community garden projects, donated over two thousand pounds of
19 garden produce, engaged close to one thousand four hundred
20 community volunteers and reached students throughout New
21 Mexico;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Wednesday,
24 January 28, 2015, be declared "New Mexico Food and Farms Day"
25 in the house of representatives as acknowledgment that the

1 time has come to invest in New Mexico's children, economy and
2 future by supporting farmers, farmers' markets and food
3 entrepreneurs and by encouraging public schools and others to
4 continue and expand the purchase of New Mexico-grown fruits
5 and vegetables; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the New Mexico food and agriculture policy
8 council, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the
9 public education department.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Tripp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the beginning of the first name.

DON TRIPP, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Ramonas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail at the end.

DENISE RAMONAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES