

First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R13-0876.01 Meghan O'Connor x4143

HJR13-1018

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-1018

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF MARCH 19, 2013, AS "NATIONAL**
102 **AGRICULTURE DAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Americans enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most
2 affordable food supply in the world, thanks in large part to the efficiency
3 and productivity of America's farm and ranch families; and

4 WHEREAS, As the world's population continues to grow from 7
5 billion to 9 billion by 2045, farmers and ranchers are challenged with
6 producing more food, feed, fiber, and fuel; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, 98% 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 fed a mere 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, American consumers spend less than 10% of their
2 annual income on food, less than any other developed nation, as
3 American farmers and ranchers receive only 12 cents of every dollar
4 spent on 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 nearly \$1.8 billion of
12 exported food and agricultural products in 2012; and

13 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture contributes to national security
14 by not only providing food and fiber, but also 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 the basic necessities for all from their land; and

18 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate,
19 reliable work force in order to provide food from the field to the table;
20 and

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

24 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry is extremely
25 diversified in terms of value and production, including cattle, sheep, hogs,
26 goats, bison, elk, eggs, wine grapes, fruit, vegetables, greenhouse and
27 nursery products, honey, and aquaculture, as well as commodities
28 including corn, wheat, and hay; and

29 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal
30 husbandry practices, which ensure that livestock remain healthy,
31 productive, 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 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, The week of March 17, 2013, through March 23,
15 2013, is "National Agriculture Week"; now, therefore,

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

18 That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize
19 "National Agriculture Day" on March 19, 2013, in celebration of the
20 many men and women who strengthen the nation's agriculture industry;
21 promote a safe, high quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect
22 consumers, 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, John Salazar; and the members of the Colorado
26 Congressional Delegation.