

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

LLS NO. R17-1114.01 Darren Thornberry x4143

**SJR17-023**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-023**

101     **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 22, 2017, AS "COLORADO**  
102     **AGRICULTURE DAY".**

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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, Worldwide demand for food is expected to double by  
5         2050 as the world's population expands from the current 7.5 billion to 9.5  
6         billion, challenging farmers and ranchers to produce more food, feed,  
7         fiber, and fuel; and

8         WHEREAS, Today, 99% of U.S. farms and ranches are operated  
9         by families, and each feeds an estimated 168 people, a dramatic increase  
10        from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 25 people; and

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
March 22, 2017

SENATE  
Amended Final Rdg  
March 22, 2017

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 7% of their annual income  
2        on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers  
3        and ranchers receive on average only about 16 cents of every dollar spent  
4        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, Agriculture ranks among the most important  
9        economic sectors in Colorado, supporting more than 170,000 jobs and  
10       generating an estimated \$41 billion of economic activity annually; and

11       WHEREAS, Exports of Colorado food and agricultural products  
12       have more than tripled in the past 20 years and totaled \$1.7 billion in  
13       2016; and

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

16       WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes landowners whose livelihood  
17       depends upon the property they reside on, operate on, and care for as they  
18       work to provide basic necessities to all; and

19       WHEREAS, Leadership is vital to the viability of the agriculture  
20       industry, and participants in programs like the National FFA  
21       Organization, 4-H, and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program  
22       help develop those leadership skills necessary to promote agriculture and  
23       educate their urban cousins on the importance of agriculture to the world;  
24       and

25       WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate,  
26       reliable workforce in order to provide food from the field to the table; and

27       WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide wildlife  
28       habitat, open space, and a site for innovative and sustainable farming  
29       practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

30       WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural producers provide a diverse  
31       and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, dairy, sheep,  
32       hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, and aquaculture, as well

1 as field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, sorghum,  
2 sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine grapes, fruit,  
3 numerous other vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal  
6 husbandry practices, ensuring that livestock remain healthy, productive,  
7 and content; and

8 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture provides an estimated \$67.5  
9 million annually to support the state's wildlife; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of  
14 landowners who provide wholesome, safe food to Americans and others  
15 worldwide is essential; and

16 WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers are critical to Colorado  
17 agritourism, welcoming tourists from around the world and showing them  
18 all Colorado has to offer; and

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

22 WHEREAS, The United States' national security is stronger  
23 because farmers provide more than enough food to keep this country from  
24 depending on other nations for sustenance; and

25 WHEREAS, March 21, 2017, is "National Agriculture Day"; now,  
26 therefore,

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

29 That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize  
30 and designate "Colorado Agriculture Day" on March 22, 2017, in  
31 celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the nation's  
32 agriculture industry; promote a safe, high-quality, and sustainable food

1 supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

2           *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
3 to the Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner  
4 of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado  
5 congressional delegation.