

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION A

LLS NO. R26-0219.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE Joint Resolution

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Martinez, McCluskie, McCormick, Soper

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman, Bridges, Roberts

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

101 **CONCERNING SUPPORTING FARMERS' MARKETS IN COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, Supporting the production and marketing of
2 Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables is important for Colorado's
3 economy and for a healthy local food supply; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2024, there were more than 120 farmers' markets
5 operating in the state, with thousands of small businesses participating
6 during the market season, returning approximately \$1.62 to local
7 communities for every dollar spent; and

8 WHEREAS, Colorado's farmers' markets provide the opportunity
9 for direct sales of produce to consumers and are necessary for the survival
10 and success of many farms and ranches that rely on farmers' markets to
11 sell their crops, especially new or small producers that may not have
12 access to large food markets; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 WHEREAS, Further, farmers' markets provide a market for
2 Colorado produce varieties that are not available in large food markets,
3 leading to a broader range of genetic diversification in the food system;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Farmers' markets also provide the ability for
6 Coloradans who have limited access to food to purchase fresh fruit and
7 vegetables by increasing the value of federal Supplemental Nutrition
8 Assistance Program benefits through the "Double Up Food Bucks"
9 program in which many farmers' markets participate; and

10 WHEREAS, Managing a successful farmers' market requires
11 significant time and talent, including knowledge of agricultural seasons,
12 event planning and advertising, vendor requirements, local government
13 permitting, food safety, emergency management planning, payment
14 methods, site requirements and access, and many other concerns; and

15 WHEREAS, Farmers' market managers are mostly volunteers; and

16 WHEREAS, In order to nurture viable and successful farmers'
17 markets, for over 20 years, the nonprofit Colorado Farmers Market
18 Association has provided support for many of the state's farmers' market
19 managers, including holding annual training conferences to share best
20 practices, liaising with farmers' markets and building connections among
21 regional markets and producer networks, producing farmers' market
22 vouchers for the "Double Up Food Bucks" program, and providing
23 outreach to farmers' markets and producers about grant programs and
24 other funding opportunities and other resources; and

25 WHEREAS, Section 35-1-104 (1)(h.5), Colorado Revised Statutes,
26 authorizes the Colorado Department of Agriculture to promote farmers'
27 markets within the state, including support or development of farmers'
28 market organizations, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture has
29 partnered with the Colorado Farmers Market Association, providing it
30 with financial resources and other support, to build successful farmers'
31 markets; now, therefore,

32 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
33 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

34 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

1 (1) Continue to support an increase in Coloradans' access to
2 locally sourced, healthy, and diverse fruits and vegetables across the state
3 and sustain Colorado's local farming and ranching businesses, market
4 vendors, and local communities by supporting the continued growth and
5 viability of Colorado's farmers' markets; and

6 (2) Urge the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the
7 Colorado Farmers Market Association to sustain and enhance the critical
8 partnership between the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the
9 Colorado Farmers Market Association to provide the expertise and
10 financial and other resources necessary to support new and existing
11 farmers' market managers so that Colorado's farmers' markets are
12 successful.

13 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
14 to Kate Greenberg, the Commissioner of Agriculture; Rosalind May,
15 Executive Officer of the Colorado Farmers Market Association; and Ben
16 Rainbolt, Chief Executive Officer of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.

