

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

INTRODUCED BY CAFERRO, KAUFMANN, MACDONALD, WANZENRIED, AUGARE, O'HARA,
REINHART, ANKNEY, READ, WELBORN, FUREY, HANDS, K. WILLIAMS

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
MONTANA SUPPORTING, ENCOURAGING, AND PROMOTING MONTANA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, Farm to School Programs connect schools (K-12) and local farms with the objectives of
serving healthy meals in school cafeterias to improve student nutrition and provide experiential agriculture, health,
and nutrition educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity and associated chronic diseases are significant problems nationally and
in Montana, and increased consumption of fresh and nutritious foods ~~is proven to~~ CAN be an effective way to
combat these problems; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School Programs purchase local food for school meals and provide a market for
local agricultural producers bringing economic development opportunities to regional food and agricultural
economies; and

WHEREAS, Montana's K-12 schools have been identified as a significant market for local and regional
food products and can provide a stepping stone for local agricultural producers to scale up and grow their
businesses into larger markets; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School Programs are proliferating across the United States, with an estimated 8,900
K-12 schools participating in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School Programs are proliferating across Montana's rural and urban school districts
and will continue to grow through attention resulting from the designation of a statewide promotional Farm to
School Week; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation designated October as national Farm to School Month for the purposes
of promoting these programs among students, citizens, teachers and school administrators, state and federal
agencies, and all concerned parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA:



