

RESOLUTION 2006-48

In support of “Healthy Schools, Healthy Economy” that would increase New Mexico farm economic opportunities, stimulating the economy while providing children eating school lunch with locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

WHEREAS, more and more children in New Mexico are developing serious health issues at a very young age due to poor nutrition and poor eating habits; and

WHEREAS, approximately 65% of children eating school lunch in New Mexico come from low income households and for many of these children this may be the only nutritious meal they will eat all day long; and,

WHEREAS, twenty four percent of high school students in New Mexico are overweight or at risk of overweight, In 2000, 15% of U.S. children aged 6 to 11 were overweight and nearly 16% of adolescents were overweight, double and triple the rates 20 years ago; and,

WHEREAS, ninety-eight percent of U.S. school-aged children do not meet the Food Guide Pyramid serving recommendations for consumption of fruits and vegetables. Inadequate nutrient intake can have lasting effects and compromise cognitive development and academic performance; and,

WHEREAS, improving distribution and storage of New Mexico fresh products by utilizing the infrastructure that already exists at the New Mexico Human Services Department, Food and Nutrition Services Bureau; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture, Department of Human Services, farmers and school food service directors across the state will partner to stimulate the economy in New Mexico by buying locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, distributing them across the state to all schools; and,

WHEREAS, increased funding from the state legislature would enable our schools to purchase New Mexico grown produce, and serve more fresh fruits and vegetables to our children – and support the economic development of our local farmers as well; and,

WHEREAS, helping farmers save on the high fuel costs incurred by shipping produce outside the state – thereby decreasing the “environmental footprint” of New Mexico food distribution; and,

WHEREAS, increasing fresh fruit and vegetable consumptions will promote healthy eating habits, improving overall health, which will result in reduced medical expenses and improving school attendance which result from poor health and nutrition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the town of Silver City that the town of Silver City agrees to join the New Mexico School Nutrition Association, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, New Mexico Action for Healthy Kids, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, NM Task Force to End Hunger, and New Mexico State University, in supporting “Healthy Kids –Healthy Economy” legislation this 12th Day of December, 2006.

TOWN OF SILVER CITY

By _____
James R. Marshall, Mayor

ATTEST:

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Town Clerk