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SR-73 (2023-2024)

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ENROLLED MARCH 15, 2024

PASSED IN SENATE MARCH 14, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 73

Introduced by Senator Hurtado

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Atkins, Blakespear, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, Newman, Nguyen, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Seyarto, Stern, Umberg, Wiener, and Wilk)

March 04, 2024

Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 73, Hurtado.

WHEREAS, March 19, 2024, is designated as California Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians nourished, and its role in keeping the state's economy ranked as the fifth largest in the world; and

WHEREAS, The theme of California Agriculture Day 2024 is "Next-Gen Tools, Talent & Tech" in recognition of the crucial role California's agricultural community plays in leading and feeding the world due to its focus on innovation, science and research, preparing the workforce of the future, and adoption of climate smart practices; and

WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for over one-third of vegetables and nearly three-quarters of the fruits and nuts produced in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Farming and related industries employ more than 22.1 million people, making up over 10.4 percent of employment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural community relies on a vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health, the environment, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the industry; and

WHEREAS, Today's agricultural industry offers over 200 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm cultivation to food science and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in agricultural production have resulted in a drop in consumer spending on food products from 22 percent of average household disposable income in 1949 to 11.3 percent in 2022; and

WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural exports, shipping \$22.5 billion in food and agricultural commodities around the world in 2021, which represents a 7 percent increase from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, California is the nation's sole exporter of many agricultural commodities, supplying 99 percent or more of the nation's exported almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, garlic, kiwis, olives and olive oil, pistachios, prunes, table grapes, raisins, tomatoes for processing, and walnuts; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry constantly seeks to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets; and

WHEREAS, Science, technology, and innovation have enabled California agriculture to continually improve quality, safety, and consumer product choice, and drive advancements in organic production, reduced water use, and more sustainable pest management practices, including biological controls; and

WHEREAS, California agriculture has provided strong leadership in the adoption of climate-smart practices to reduce methane and other greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, save water, and scale up soil health practices to sequester carbon and other solutions to climate change; and

WHEREAS, Public-private partnerships are continually being developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

WHEREAS, California consumers say that it is important to them to purchase food items grown in the state and they have demonstrated increased support of farmers' markets, community-supported agricultural programs, and Farm to School programs; and

WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital to ensuring that California agricultural farms and ranches continue to flourish; and

WHEREAS, California is estimated to lose 500,000 acres of agricultural land by 2050, and more than 300,000 acres of it will have been highly productive irrigated cropland, and thus California should continue to work for conservation to preserve California's agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate recognizes and honors all those who work in California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by designating Tuesday, March 19, 2024, as California Agriculture Day and by observing March 19, 2024, as National Agriculture Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.