The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, agriculture is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are where Washington growers gather to meet the public and sell what they have produced directly to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Washington has over 160 farmers markets providing fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to consumers of all ages and ethnic backgrounds in rural and urban communities around the state; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets support farm families, rural jobs, community food security, and preserve farmland and open space adding to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets also support artisans, prepared food, and other vendors, as well as helping nearby businesses; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are a key source of fresh, nutritious foods for people receiving public food assistance, and also provide donations to local food banks; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets contribute to the economic and social vitality of many communities, creating a positive social experience, and educating consumers about their food and where it comes from;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 7-13, 2011, as

Farmers Market Week

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the many benefits of our local farmers markets.

Signed this 28th day of July, 2011

Chris Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire