The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington agriculture directly generates $9.89 billion annually and is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets offer an effective way for more than 1,200 Washington farmers to sell their products directly to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Washington has over 150 farmers markets providing fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to consumers of all ages, and economic 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 sellers, and other vendors, as well as increasing sales to 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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 3-9, 2014, as

Farmers Market Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee