Proclamation

WHEREAS, farmers markets are engines of economic recovery and rebuilding, providing families with access to healthy foods and agricultural products directly from Washington farmers and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Washington has 160 farmers markets in nearly 100 cities and towns around the state that attract over 4 million shoppers annually, and each creates a place of beloved community connection; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets serve as significant outlets for new businesses and family farms with lean budgets to hone their skills, develop their products, grow a loyal shopper base, and build experience in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets support the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities and preserve farmland and open space, adding to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets also support artisans, prepared food businesses, and other vendors, as well as increase sales for neighboring businesses; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are a key source of fresh, nutritious food for everyone, including families benefiting from the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Pandemic EBT; and SNAP Market Match to incentivize buying more fruit and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are managed by dedicated community leaders who are driven by shared values of supporting local farmers, feeding their neighbors, and creating a healthy Washington; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets contribute to the economic and social fabric of their communities, creating a positive community experience and providing people with education about their food and connection to where it comes from;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2022, as

Farmers Market Week

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

Signed this 25th day of July, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee