

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets are engines of economic opportunity and entrepreneurship with over \$80 million in sales, providing families with access to healthy foods and agricultural products directly from Washington farmers and small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington has 165 farmers markets in nearly 100 cities and towns around the state that attract more than 4.3 million shoppers annually and create places for beloved community connection; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets serve as significant sales outlets for small businesses and family farms, as well as for learning vital skills, developing new products, growing a loyal shopper base, and gaining experience that leads to success and self-sufficiency; 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, local foods for everyone; provide nutrition education about the importance of healthy fruits and vegetables; and are vital partners that make possible the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), SNAP Market Match, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and

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

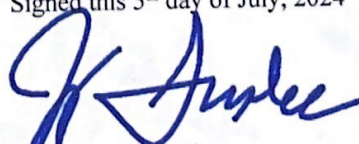
**WHEREAS**, farmers markets contribute to the economic and social fabric of their communities, creating a positive community experience and providing people with education about their food and a connection to where it comes from;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2024, as

### *Washington Farmers Market Week*

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

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024

  
Governor Jay Inslee

