

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ROOSEVELT COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2014-09
TO PROTECT
NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS, agriculture is vital to the state of New Mexico, the United States of America, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico food production industry is the third largest income producer for our state, and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico food production industry represents a \$4 billion direct impact to the New Mexico economy, which is multiplied several times over in indirect impact; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico food production industry represents approximately 43,452 direct jobs and 57,500 indirect jobs; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico dairy industry is the leader in the nation in efficiency and number one in economic impact to the state in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Right to Farm legislation has been passed nationally and by states to protect our food production industries from frivolous lawsuits in order to maintain production; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state lawyers have come to New Mexico to solicit plaintiffs for and file meritless "nuisance" lawsuits against New Mexico family owned and operated dairies and other agriculture operations that are in compliance with federal state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, these out-of-state lawyers have a long history of filling this type of lawsuit in states with weak Right to Farm Acts and with success, they have continued, and will continue to file meritless lawsuits against various agriculture industries unless New Mexico changes its laws; and

WHEREAS, states such as Missouri and Florida, where these lawyers have filed these "nuisance" action, have amended their Right to Farm laws to protect their agriculture industries; and

WHEREAS, if the current Right to Farm laws are left unchanged, these lawsuits could bankrupt agriculture operation in New Mexico and other states, costing the states thousands of jobs for the benefit of out-of-state lawyers; and



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roosevelt County Board of Commission asks the New Mexico Legislature, both House and Senate, to preserve our most valuable food producing industry and the thousands of jobs and economic benefits created by the industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we specifically ask the New Mexico Legislature to support amendments to the New Mexico Right to Farm Act that will protect our food producers from unwarranted meritless lawsuits.

RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners in regular session on the 4th day of February, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO


Kendall Buzard, Chairman


Scott Burton, Vice Chairman


Bill Cathey, Member


Rick Leal, Member


Jake Lopez, Member



Attest:


DeAun Searl, Roosevelt County Clerk

