

28 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

29 WHEREAS, 50 years ago in 1969 the 38th Legislature of the state of Utah passed  
30 landmark legislation ~~H→~~ , **sponsored by Miles (Cap) Ferry, Merrill Jenkins, and Kendrick**  
30a **Harward**, ~~←H~~ that permitted qualifying farms in Utah to be assessed for tax purposes at  
31 productive value rather than its speculative or market value;

32 WHEREAS, this legislation enacted the "Farmland Assessment Act of 1969," and it has  
33 been commonly referred to as the "Greenbelt Amendment";

34 WHEREAS, this unique method of assessment is vital to agriculture operations in close  
35 proximity to expanding urban areas, where taxing agricultural property at market value could  
36 make farming operations economically prohibitive;

37 WHEREAS, productive values are established by the Utah State Tax Commission with  
38 the assistance of a five-member Farmland Assessment Advisory Committee and Utah State  
39 University and county-wide productive values are based upon income and expense factors  
40 associated with agriculture activities;

41 WHEREAS, Utah's agriculture receipts, or the market value of agricultural  
42 commodities, totaled \$1.7 billion in 2017, reflecting a steady increase over decades and  
43 generations of farmers;

44 WHEREAS, Utah agriculture continues to be an important economic driver accounting  
45 for \$2.5 billion in total economic output when including economic multiplier effects, and  
46 combining both agriculture production and processing produces nearly 80,000 Utah jobs and  
47 \$3.5 billion in compensation;

48 WHEREAS, the number of Utah farms has increased in the last 10 years to 18,200  
49 farms (#37 rank in the United States), 11 million acres (#25 rank in the United States) with an  
50 average size farm of 604 acres (#12 rank in the United States);

51 WHEREAS, Utah's top county for agriculture sales in 2017 was an urban county --  
52 Utah County (\$189 million), and other top counties for 2017 agricultural sales were Beaver  
53 County (\$178 million), Millard County (\$166 million), Sanpete County (\$165 million), and  
54 Box Elder County (\$149 million);

55 WHEREAS, Utah production agriculture is a vast undertaking, from producing a  
56 bounty of food for consumers, to growing the wood that frames our homes, the fiber in our  
57 clothes, and even the renewable fuel in our cars;

58 WHEREAS, Utah farmers and ranchers are dedicated to an important mission --