

**SENATE RESOLUTION
1997-8643**

By Senators Morton and Rasmussen

WHEREAS, Washington state farmers produce \$5.8 billion worth of agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Food processing is a \$7.7 billion industry and is the state's second largest manufacturing industry in value and number of employees; and

WHEREAS, More than 190,000 Washington residents are employed in direct, agriculture-related jobs; and

WHEREAS, Almost 91 percent of the value of agricultural products sold are produced by 22 percent of the state's farms; and

WHEREAS, About 25 percent of the state's agricultural commodities are sold in Washington, about 50 percent are sold in U.S. domestic markets, and about 25 percent in international markets; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 36,000 farms in Washington covering 16 million acres and producing over 100 different commodities; and

WHEREAS, Washington State ranks first in the production of 14 major commodities and 12th among all states in total agricultural output; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gary Locke has proclaimed March 19, as Agriculture Business Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate recognizes and honors the men and women who have made agriculture the number one industry in this state and we applaud the agri-business community for their efforts to ensure that agriculture maintains its leading role in our state and nation's economy.

I, Mike O'Connell, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 1997-8643,
adopted by the Senate March 19, 1997.

MIKE O'CONNELL
Secretary of the Senate