

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2002-4713, by Representatives Boldt, Mielke, Chandler, Ericksen, Pearson, Linville, Barlean, Roach, Casada and Hatfield

WHEREAS, Washington is home to 247,000 dairy cows; and

WHEREAS, There are 640 dairy farms in Washington; and

WHEREAS, 99.9 percent are family owned and operated; and

WHEREAS, Washington's dairy cows produce more milk per cow than any other in America, averaging more than 22,644 pounds of milk per cow; and

WHEREAS, Dairy farms are a stable, important key to the economic well-being of rural Washington; and

WHEREAS, The economic effect of our state's dairy farmers is estimated at 4.5 billion dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, Over 4,000 people work on dairy farms, and 40,000 jobs exist to support the industry in processing, distribution, marketing, and supporting services; and

WHEREAS, Washington's dairy industry is actually older than the state itself; and

WHEREAS, The first dairy cows came to Washington in 1838 and played an important role in the development of the Pacific Northwest by providing an essential food for settlers; and

WHEREAS, February 20, 2002, marks the observance of Legislative Dairy Day, an annual event celebrated at the state capitol of the great state of Washington for well over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Legislative Dairy Day honors the dairy industry, which is the second largest agricultural industry in this great state of Washington, for the extensive contributions made by the dairy industry to the economic well-being of our great state of Washington as well as the invaluable contribution made by the dairy industry in providing an indispensable part of a healthy, balanced, and nutritious diet, with such irreplaceable products as milk, cheese, ice cream, yogurt, and a great many other dairy products; and

WHEREAS, Legislative Dairy Day also honors the Washington State Dairy Federation which, as a professional organization of dairy farmers in this great state of Washington, provides an exceptional voice for the contribution and special concerns of the dairy farmers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Washington State House of Representatives acknowledge and honor the women and men whose work on dairy farms throughout Washington has contributed so much to the strength and vitality of our state and its economy, the character of our communities, and the general well-being of our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Washington State Dairy Federation.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
4713 Resolution adopted by the House of Representatives
February 20, 2002.

Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk