HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4676, by Representatives Orcutt, Dent, Doglio, Graves, Hayes, Irwin, Kilduff, MacEwen, McCabe, Muri, Schmick, Tarleton, Van Werven, Wilcox, Barkis, Haler, Maycumber, Shea, Steele, Walsh, Kretz, Dye, Jenkin, McCaslin, and Eslick

WHEREAS, Washington agriculture generates $10.16 billion annually and is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy; and

WHEREAS, Washington FFA members' continuous efforts culminated in four chapters being named as national finalists in the National Chapter Awards Program, which recognizes the top ten chapters in the nation in four qualifying areas out of the eight thousand five hundred sixty-eight chapters nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Washington FFA members contribute to the nationally generated $4.4 billion through Supervised Agricultural Experience programs, which are an extension of classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, National FFA Week is celebrated annually nationwide during the week of George Washington's birthday, in celebration of his legacy as an agriculturalist, and to emphasize the importance of the foundation of agriculture to FFA members; and

WHEREAS, The FFA motto, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve," gives direction and purpose to students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education; and

WHEREAS, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism, and cooperation through approximately 482,000 service hours which equates to an economic impact of over $10.9 million nationally; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs of science, business, and technology in the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural education is the original science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education model, and agricultural education is celebrating 101 years as a result of the Smith-Hughes Act influencing more than 50,000 Washington students enrolled in agricultural education courses annually; and

WHEREAS, Washington FFA Week is recognized by approximately 11,000 members statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives recognize Washington FFA members and their distinction in the agricultural field during the celebration of FFA Week, February 17th through 24th, 2018.