

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4650, by Representative Johnson

1 WHEREAS, A state fair is a time-honored tradition that is enjoyed
2 by all Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, 125 years ago, in February 1892, the Washington State
4 Legislature declared Yakima would be the location of Washington's
5 first, and for many years only, State Fair; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1893, the Legislature appropriated 10,000 dollars to
7 purchase 120 acres of land where the present State Fair is located;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, By September 1894, the first State Fair of Washington
10 was held in Yakima; and

11 WHEREAS, The gala milestone in state history boasted a 2,000 seat
12 grandstand, a racetrack, an exhibit hall, 100 horse stalls, and a
13 judging stand three stories high; and featured horse races, an auto
14 show, and fireworks displays; and

15 WHEREAS, During the Great Depression, it was difficult for the
16 state of Washington to fund the Fair and so it was discontinued in
17 1937; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1939, a group of people representing agricultural,
19 livestock, and business interests incorporated as the "Central
20 Washington Fair Association" with the purpose of once again holding a
21 fair in Yakima; and

1 WHEREAS, The 1939, 1940, and 1941 Fairs were all successful, and
2 though the event was suspended from 1942 through 1945 because of
3 World War II, it was revived in 1946 and continues to this day; and

4 WHEREAS, Men and women from the livestock and agricultural
5 industries, Grange organizations, Future Farmers of America, 4-H
6 groups, and others display their skills of raising and showing
7 animals, their culinary abilities, and provide displays in many arts
8 and foods categories; and

9 WHEREAS, Later this year, September 22nd through October 1st,
10 thousands of proud exhibitors from all over the state, the Pacific
11 Northwest, and Canada will again fill the halls and stalls of the
12 Central Washington State Fairgrounds; and

13 WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to recognize the designation of
14 the City of Yakima as the location for the original State Fair of
15 Washington; and

16 WHEREAS, The original State Fair of Washington is celebrating its
17 125th year of becoming a fair and has stayed faithful to its
18 agricultural roots and mission;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
20 honor the Central Washington State Fair Association as the esteemed
21 and steadfast keeper of our 125 year State Fair tradition, and
22 recognize its cultural and economic impacts on the state of
23 Washington; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be
25 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
26 Representatives to members of the Central Washington State Fair
27 Association's Board of Directors and to the management and staff of
28 the Central Washington State Fair Association.

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