

SENATE RESOLUTION

8629

By Senators Honeyford, King, and Warnick

1 WHEREAS, A group of Yakima business and farm leaders wishing to
2 showcase the wide variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, and other
3 farm products gained Legislative approval to have Yakima be the site
4 of the Central Washington State Fair in February of 1892; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1893 the Washington State Legislature appropriated
6 \$10,000 to purchase the land where the present State Fair park is
7 located; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1908 a street car line was built to the grounds so
9 that people from all over the Northwest could come to Yakima by
10 train, then by street car, to enjoy the sights and sounds of the
11 Washington State Fair; and

12 WHEREAS, In those days, the Fair attracted visitors for the horse
13 races, the grandstand performances, the Fair food, abundant displays
14 of the Yakima Valley harvest, and the Indian encampment and the
15 tribal stick games held each evening; and

16 WHEREAS, During the Depression it was difficult for the State
17 of Washington to fund the Fair and in 1936 decided to discontinue the
18 Fair until better times, the people of Central Washington determined
19 to operate the Central Washington State Fair; and

20 WHEREAS, Since that year, the Fair has been held each September
21 excluding the years between 1942 and 1946 when Kenworth moved into
22 the grounds to build trucks for the war effort; and

1 WHEREAS, During those same years there were training exercises
2 for the armed forces on the Fair grounds and the Fair buildings
3 turned into barracks for our troops; and

4 WHEREAS, The Fair has given hundreds of thousands of dollars over
5 the years in premiums for entries in various categories including
6 foods, flower arranging, quilts, fine arts, and animal husbandry; and

7 WHEREAS, The Fair has encouraged our 4-H and FFA youth in
8 displaying their skills of raising and showing their animals, their
9 parliamentary skills, their culinary skills, and other
10 accomplishments; and

11 WHEREAS, Hundreds of our Yakima Valley youth have been helped by
12 their Fair experience and Fair premiums; and

13 WHEREAS, The State Fair Park has also sponsored great names in
14 entertainment for attendees from all over the State of Washington;
15 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 Washington State Senate
20 honor the 125th anniversary of the State Fair in Central Washington
21 and recognize its cultural and economic impacts on the State of
22 Washington.

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