## Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, West Virginia farmers and ranchers provide citizens with access to healthful, locally, and regionally produced foods through farmers markets, which are expanding and evolving to accommodate the demand for a diverse array of agricultural products; and

Whereas, farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide infrastructure to assist in the distribution of farm and value-added products, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy, and over \$28 million to West Virginia's economy, and

Whereas, farmers markets serve as significant outlets by which small-to-medium, new and beginning, and veteran agricultural producers market agricultural products, generating revenue that supports the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities nationwide, and

Whereas, the Great State of West Virginia recognizes the importance of expanding agricultural marketing opportunities that assist and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers; generate farm income to help stimulate business development and job creation; build community connections through rural and urban linkages, and more.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2024 as:

## West Virginia Farmers Market Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eighteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.

Jim Justice Governor

By the Governor:

Mpc Warner

Mac Warner Secretary of State