



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1018

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Esgar and Vigil, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Brown, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Conti, Coram, Court, Danielson, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Everett, Fields, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Klingenschmitt, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lontine, Lundeen, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Roupe, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Tyler, Van Winkle, Willett, Williams, Wilson, Windholz, Winter, Wist, Young, Hullinghorst;
also SENATOR(S) Garcia, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Heath, Hill, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Newell, Scheffel, Steadman, Tate, Woods, Cadman.

CONCERNING THE SUPPORT FOR GOODS PRODUCED IN COLORADO AND OTHER STATES IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, Colorado has a proud history of manufacturing and production, having always been defined by our independent and enterprising spirit and our can-do attitude toward problem solving; and

WHEREAS, To connect Denver with the Western Slope by rail in the nineteenth century, miners carved roads into impossibly steep mountainsides across Colorado, and engineers blasted and drilled through six miles of solid rock and called it the Moffat Tunnel; and

WHEREAS, Pueblo, the manufacturing hub of Colorado, also known as the "Steel City", has time and time again revitalized the economy of Colorado, with its rich natural resources and welcoming business climate attracting a diverse group of entrepreneurs and workers from across the country; and

WHEREAS, A strong domestic steel industry is a point of national pride but has been threatened in recent years by cheaper, foreign-made steel; and

WHEREAS, Buying and supporting American-made steel supports the steel industry, our nation's infrastructure, and a healthy national economy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado companies employ Coloradans and are the backbone of our economy, with over 500,000 small businesses in the state employing nearly 1,000,000 Colorado workers; and

WHEREAS, Buying American-made goods supports American manufacturing jobs, which in turn support the middle class and lead to overall prosperity, with fewer people in need; and

WHEREAS, Manufacturing is crucial to the nation's economic recovery and sustained job growth; and

WHEREAS, America's work force can out-innovate and out-compete the world and revive our manufacturing sector if we buy American-made products; and

WHEREAS, Standing up for American manufacturing helps level the playing field with large, multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS, Colorado lost about 25,000 manufacturing jobs between 1994 and 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, due, in part, to unfair competition from companies overseas; and

WHEREAS, Buying American-made products not only creates manufacturing jobs but also leads to a ripple effect for our economy; and

WHEREAS, More American manufacturing jobs not only reduce the unemployment rate but also expand the tax base to pay for public benefits such as Medicare and Social Security; and

WHEREAS, Buying American-made products protects Colorado's natural environment, as American manufacturers follow strict environmental regulations that do not exist in many of the countries that export their goods to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, The American steel industry is a leader in recycling, with steel being one of the most widely recycled materials in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Buying American products supports safe and fair working conditions, as many countries impose negligible regulations or standards on working conditions and permit unreasonably long and unsafe hours, child labor, and extremely low wages; and

WHEREAS, Purchasing American-made goods supports fair labor standards and good jobs for good wages; and

WHEREAS, American-made products are safe and made with high quality, compared to some foreign products that aren't held to the same safety standards and that can put our children and families in danger; and

WHEREAS, Buying American-made products keeps our dollars in the U.S., paying workers who directly or indirectly created the product, who then spend their wages in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, The economic recovery has not yet reached every Colorado family; and

WHEREAS, We have the power to support Colorado and invest in America by buying American- and Colorado-made goods; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That the State of Colorado encourages the purchase of goods and services from Colorado-based companies, farmers, and workers, and, in the case of goods and services that are not available from Colorado companies, farmers, or workers, from U.S.-based companies, farmers, and workers in preference over goods and services grown, produced, or manufactured in foreign countries.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to: Governor John Hickenlooper, the Colorado Congressional delegation, President Barack Obama, the Pueblo County Commissioner, the Pueblo City Council, and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Bill L. Cadman
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