

The Office of the Governor

Of the State of Idaho

PROCLAMATION

October 2019 Hunger and Food Security Awareness Month

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are serious problems and are recognized as affecting communities and tribal organizations across this state—not only those who suffer its immediate and direct effects, but all of our society; and

WHEREAS, good nutrition and eating habits have a positive effect on health, well-being, and the ability to learn and thrive especially for our children; and the ability to remain independent for our seniors; it is important that our medical community reinforce this connection; and

WHEREAS, too many Idahoans remain food insecure, there have been great strides in strengthening local and regional food systems and improving access for all. Emerging healthcare partnerships in Idaho are critical to addressing chronic diet-related diseases through increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. Let us build on this momentum and strengthen the trend toward healthier lifestyles for Idaho's children, seniors and families. We all share in the responsibility of assuring access to healthy food and promoting good food choices for all Idahoans; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is an agricultural state with over 25,000 farms, partnerships between hunger relief and Idaho food systems is a crucial component to both providing access to nutritious food through partnerships with Idaho producers to benefit Idaho farmers, food insecure Idahoans, and support our state economy and healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, an initiative such as "Hunger and Food Security Awareness Month" not only sends a message of support to those in need, but raises awareness of this critical issue among the general population of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, no one person or organization can end hunger, I encourage citizens, communities, faith groups, state agencies, farmers and non-profit organizations to participate together in this worthy cause and encourage all to become involved through essential public and private partnerships to strengthen Idaho food systems and provide food security for all Idahoans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, do hereby proclaim October 2019 as HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH in Idaho.

Brad Little, Governor

State of Idaho