NEWS RELEASE

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Rep. Marc Catlin's Bill to Extend Ag Workforce Development Program is Law

Denver, Colorado – Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin sees <u>HB23-1094</u>, Extend Agricultural Workforce Development Program become law. The law extends the terminal date the program will exist. Also, the law allows for the agricultural workforce development program internships to last for one year, instead of just a six-month period. The program was created in 2018 for Colorado's agriculture industry to find and train interns to help build a well-trained workforce. The development program financially incentivizes farmers, ranchers, and ag businesses to hire and provide hands-on training to individuals who would like to pursue a career in agriculture. The online information for the ag workforce development program can be found, <u>here</u>.

The Law was signed by Governor Jared Polis on April 25, 2023. The bi-partisan bill received 93% approval from all state legislators. The prime sponsors in the Colorado House of Representatives were Meghan Lukens (D-HD26) of Routt County and Marc Catlin (R-HD58) of Montrose County. The prime sponsor in the Colorado Senate were Dylan Roberts (D-SD8) of Eagle County and Rod Pelton (R-SD35) of Cheyenne County.

Representative Marc Catlin says, "This is legislation that will help build the bench of agriculture in the state of Colorado. Agriculture has remained on the outskirts of town, quietly doing its job providing for communities. This legislation recognizes the farmers' 401K is their land and way of life. This law is one way to protect their investment. Colorado should be proud of its agricultural community."

Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin represents the eight counties of Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. Representative Catlin Vice Chairs Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, is a member of the Capital Development Committee and Ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.
