***Proclamation***

***IDAHO FARMERS MARKET WEEK***

***August 7-13, 2016***

***WHEREAS, agriculture is Idaho’s leading natural resource-based industry, contributing over $7.9 billion annually to the state’s economy;***

***WHEREAS, farmers markets in Idaho are growing in size and popularity, with forty-three markets currently operating throughout the state;***

***WHEREAS, farmers markets stimulate the local economy by directly supporting local farmers and reinvesting money back into the community;***

***WHEREAS, farmers markets are critically important in educating consumers about local food systems and where their food comes from;***

***WHEREAS, consumer trends show great interest in eating locally;***

***WHEREAS, Idaho farmers markets are a great place to buy fresh, local products, of the highest quality;***

***WHEREAS farmers markets provide the opportunity for community members access to healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables;***

***WHEREAS, the state of Idaho strongly supports and promotes the development, operation, and expansion of Farmers Markets;***

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim August 7-13, 2016 as***

***Farmers Market Week***

***in Idaho, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the many benefits of Farmers Markets in the Idaho.***