

WHEREAS, hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in Colorado where 12.5% of people face hunger in Colorado and one in every 7 children do not know where their next meal will come from; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fruita, Colorado is committed to taking steps to combat hunger in every part of our community and to provide additional resources that those in the Western Slope need; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fruita, Colorado is committed to working with Food Bank of the Rockies, a member of the Feeding America® nationwide network of food banks, in educating people about the role and importance of food banks in addressing hunger and raising awareness of the need to devote more resources and attention to hunger issues; and

WHEREAS, more than 130,000 individuals in the Western Slope rely on food provided by the members of the Food Bank of the Rockies annually; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has had devastating health and economic impacts across the country and it is projected that 46,390 people face hunger in the Western Slope in the wake of the pandemic this year; and

WHEREAS, the members of Food Bank of the Rockies Western Slope center distributed more than 16.5 million meals to over 400,463 individuals since 2020 through its network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the month of September has been designated "Hunger Action Month" in order to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and to engage the public in action – including volunteer shifts, social media shares, and donations – to ensure nobody has to make an impossible choice between food and other necessities like medicine, utilities or childcare; and

WHEREAS, food banks across the country, including the members of the Food Bank of the Rockies in the Western Slope—will host numerous engagement opportunities throughout the month of September to bring awareness and help end hunger in their local community;

**NOW, THERFORE,** I, Joel Kincaid, do hereby recognize September 2021, as HUNGER ACTION MONTH in our City OF Fruita, CO, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

Joel Kincaid Mayor of the City of Fruita