

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 500

Introduced by Clouse, 37; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Riepe, 12; Sanders, 45; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, western Nebraska experienced a significant wildfire emergency in the spring of 2026, requiring the sustained deployment of firefighters and emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, Hot Meals, a volunteer-driven disaster response organization, mobilized swiftly and began delivering food to firefighters in Oshkosh on March 13, 2026, with meals prepared in Kearney and transported by dedicated volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Hot Meals established its mobile disaster response kitchen at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in North Platte on March 17, 2026, and served its first hot dinner that very evening under an open-air pavilion; and

WHEREAS, Hot Meals served two hot meals and a sack lunch daily at the North Platte fire camp for two full weeks, simultaneously making twice-daily meal deliveries to firefighters in Ogallala during that same period; and

WHEREAS, Hot Meals subsequently relocated its kitchen to the Keith County Fairgrounds in Ogallala to integrate directly with the Incident Command Post and continue uninterrupted food service to emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, the communities of North Platte and Ogallala responded with extraordinary generosity, with more than four hundred individual volunteers stepping forward to serve across three daily shifts, logging over six hundred total volunteer shifts, with each shift averaging approximately four hours; and

WHEREAS, countless volunteers demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment by returning to serve multiple days and multiple shifts, exemplifying the spirit of Nebraska neighborliness and selfless service; and

WHEREAS, the nourishment and care provided by Hot Meals and its volunteers directly supported the health, morale, and operational capacity of the brave

firefighters and emergency responders protecting Nebraska lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature of the State of Nebraska hereby recognizes and commends Hot Meals for its rapid and sustained volunteer disaster response during the 2026 Nebraska wildfire emergency.

2. That the Legislature expresses its profound gratitude to the more than four hundred volunteers who contributed over six hundred shifts of service in North Platte, Ogallala, and the surrounding region, ensuring that Nebraska's firefighters were fed, cared for, and supported throughout the crisis.

3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the leadership of Hot Meals and to the mayors of North Platte and Ogallala in recognition of the extraordinary civic response of their communities.