



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this year marks the 50th anniversary of one of the world's premier genetic resources storage facilities, the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation, a U.S. Department of Agriculture research facility situated on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins; and

WHEREAS, dedicated in 1958 and originally known as the National Seed Storage Laboratory, the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation has long been at the forefront of a global effort to provide secure, long-term preservation of genetic resources critical to world-wide food supplies and agriculture security; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years, the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation has put Fort Collins on the map as one of the world's largest genetic resources storage facilities and currently houses 750,000 samples of seeds from around the globe and over 450,000 samples of animal germplasm, including many rare and historical collections; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its storage facilities, the Center is also home to globally respected research programs in the long-term preservation of plant and animal genetic resources and in understanding how to assess and best preserve and ensure genetic diversity need for the future; and

WHEREAS, increased public awareness on the conservation of genetic resources has been raised through tours of the facility with 740 visitors in 2007, including many Fort Collins school children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Doug Hutchinson, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim August 19, 2008

NATIONAL CENTER FOR GENETIC RESOURCES PRESERVATION DAY

in honor of the Center's 50th anniversary celebration and to express our appreciation for the globally renowned scientific research, preservation efforts and service that the Center provides to Fort Collins and the world to ensure safe, long-term preservation of diverse plant and animal genetic material critical to food and agricultural security.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 15th day of July, A.D. 2008.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk