

Substitute for House Resolution No. 317.

A resolution to declare March 19, 2014, as Agriculture At The Capitol Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, This is the tenth year that Agriculture At the Capitol Day has been celebrated; and

Whereas, Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state of Michigan and agriculture continues to grow; and

Whereas, Michigan is a national leader in the production of commodities with more than 300 separate commodities produced on a commercial basis. Our state is the leading producer in 17 of those commodities; and

Whereas, Michigan's strong agricultural industry continues to grow Michigan's economy. There are nearly 55,000 farms and 1,841 food processors in Michigan; and

Whereas, According to the recent Michigan State University Product Center Strategic Marketing Institute Report on the economic impact of Michigan's food and agriculture system, Michigan farmers contribute \$96 billion in high-quality food, fiber, and floriculture annually to the state's economy; and

Whereas, Michigan's many microclimates permit the growing of grains, corn, beans, celery, apples, cherries and grapes among others; and

Whereas, Michigan's livestock and dairy sectors produce superior quality beef, poultry, pork, and dairy products enjoyed throughout the world; and

Whereas, Our abundant natural resources continue to make Michigan a great place to live, work, and play. As the state continues to recover from the most recent economic struggles, agriculture will continue to play a vital role in our long-term recovery; and

Whereas, Michigan agriculture is a renewable economic resource for the state, employing more than one million people and creating income that is replenished every year in the state; and

Whereas, Michigan agriculture is a family affair with families or partners owning the overwhelming majority of the state's farms and agricultural facilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 19, 2014, as Agriculture At The Capitol Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize and honor the achievements and contributions of farmers and the thousands of people involved in jobs relating to Michigan agriculture.