

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.143

Reps. O'Malley, Meerman, LaFave, Alexander, Markkanen, Mueller, Garza, Cynthia Johnson, Allor and Sowerby offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to support the U.S. cherry industry's petition
2 before the U.S. International Trade Commission stating unfair trade
3 practices against Turkey and to urge the Commission and the U.S.
4 Department of Commerce to take action protecting U.S. cherry
5 farmers.

6 Whereas, Michigan is the primary tart cherry producing state,
7 growing 189 million pounds in 2017, or nearly 75% of the nation's
8 crop. Tart cherry production in the United States totaled 259.5
9 million pounds in 2017, valued at \$56.8 million; and

10 Whereas, Turkish imports have caused tart cherry prices to
11 crash, significantly damaging Michigan's industry. The amount of



1 dried cherries imported from Turkey have grown exponentially over
2 the last three years, more than tripling from 2016 to 2018.
3 Subsidized by the Turkish government, Turkish cherries sell for 89
4 cents per pound while the U.S. product sells for an average of
5 \$4.60 per pound; and

6 Whereas, On April 23, 2019, the Dried Tart Cherry Trade
7 Committee filed petitions with the U.S. International Trade
8 Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce, claiming that
9 Turkey is flooding the U.S. market with dried tart cherries,
10 lowering domestic product prices and causing material injury to
11 tart cherry producers in Michigan and other cherry growing states;
12 and

13 Whereas, In June, the U.S. International Trade Commission
14 issued a preliminary ruling that Turkish imports "had a significant
15 adverse impact on the domestic industry." A final ruling is
16 expected early next year. If Turkish imports are determined to be
17 injurious to the U.S. market, the Department of Commerce will
18 determine the duties to be imposed; and

19 Whereas, If the industry loses its case, few cherry growers
20 will survive. Already trees are being destroyed as it costs more to
21 harvest fruit than the current return on the product. Jobs will be
22 lost both in seasonal workers in the field and the thousands of
23 employees in processing plants who work year-round preparing
24 cherries for market; now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we support the
26 U.S. cherry industry's petition before the U.S. International Trade
27 Commission stating unfair trade practices against Turkey and urge
28 the Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce to take action
29 protecting U.S. cherry farmers; and be it further



1 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
2 members of the U.S. International Trade Commission, the United
3 States Secretary of Commerce, and the members of the Michigan
4 congressional delegation.