

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.139

Senators VanderWall, McBroom, Daley, Barrett, Bizon, Victory, Horn, Wozniak, Lauwers, MacDonald, Huizenga, Wojno, Bullock and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge Congress to pass legislation that would
2 allow farmers, along with coalitions and trade associations
3 representing farmers, to petition the U.S. International Trade
4 Commission to temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer
5 and fertilizer ingredients imported from Morocco.

6 Whereas, Michigan's agricultural industry is vitally important
7 to the state economy. As our nation's second most diverse
8 agricultural system, it contributes more than \$104.7 billion in
9 economic activity annually to the state. More than 800,000 people
10 work in Michigan's agricultural industry, and care for nearly 10
11 million acres of land; and

1 Whereas, Fertilizer is a critical agricultural input that is
2 utilized by farmers to provide nutrients to their land and maximize
3 the productivity of their farms. Michigan farmers require access to
4 fertilizers in order to nourish their land and maintain production
5 levels; and

6 Whereas, The International Trade Commission (ITC) determined
7 that the import of foreign fertilizers injured U.S. manufacturers.
8 As a result, the ITC decided to impose a nineteen percent tariff on
9 imports of fertilizer and fertilizer ingredients from Morocco. The
10 tariffs, which were implemented in early 2021, significantly
11 increased fertilizer prices; and

12 Whereas, Fertilizer prices in the United States are now at an
13 all-time high. Fertilizer prices had already been increasing due to
14 factors such as rising costs of raw materials and increased demand
15 for inputs. With these tariffs in effect, farmers who were already
16 struggling to compete with rising costs are now faced with an
17 increased financial burden and uncertain future; and

18 Whereas, Meanwhile, the U.S. continues to rely on imported
19 fertilizer and fertilizer ingredients. For example, more than 95
20 percent of potash, one of the key components found in fertilizer,
21 is currently imported from outside the U.S.; and

22 Whereas, Michigan contains the only commercial deposit of
23 natural potash in the U.S. and the highest quality natural potash
24 deposit in the world. The Michigan Legislature recently provided an
25 investment of \$50 million to establish potash extraction
26 infrastructure in Michigan. Once completed, this project will help
27 increase domestic supply of this critical mineral, thereby
28 strengthening and securing the supply of high-quality potash for
29 Michigan farmers, in addition to providing hundreds of full-time

1 jobs and boosting Michigan's economy. This will be crucial for the
2 Michigan agricultural industry, as significant supply shortages and
3 skyrocketing costs continue to burden Michigan farmers; and

4 Whereas, Legislation has been introduced in Congress that
5 would allow a process for individual farmers, along with coalitions
6 and trade associations representing farmers, to petition the ITC to
7 temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer and fertilizer
8 ingredients. With the price of fertilizer on the rise, this would
9 help alleviate costs for farmers, as Morocco is one of the top five
10 exporters of fertilizer to the United States; now, therefore, be it

11 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge Congress to pass
12 legislation that would allow farmers, along with coalitions and
13 trade associations representing farmers, to petition the ITC to
14 temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer and fertilizer
15 ingredients imported from Morocco; and be it further

16 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
17 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
18 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
19 congressional delegation.