

MICHIGAN SENATE

Senate Resolution No. 121

Offered by Senators Damoose, McMorrow and Santana

A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE MAY 22, 2024, AS CHERRY INDUSTRY DAY

WHEREAS, One of the most beautiful sites in Michigan or anywhere in the world during the month of May is the blossoming of the cherries trees; and

WHEREAS, Michigan is the number one cherry producing state in the nation and is the unofficial “Cherry Capitol of the World”; and

WHEREAS, Our state hosts the world’s largest cherry celebration, the National Cherry Festival. It takes place each July in Traverse City, Michigan, welcoming more than 500,000 people to celebrate and promote cherries, community involvement, and the Grand Traverse region; and

WHEREAS, In 1926, the first ‘Blessing of the Blossoms Festival’ was held on this date before evolving into the National Cherry Festival as we know it today; and

WHEREAS, The United States (U.S.) produces about 610 million pounds of sweet and tart cherries each year, with Michigan producing the largest tart cherry crop. An average of almost 250 million pounds of tart cherries are harvested each year, with 75 percent coming from our state; and

WHEREAS, Cherries contain powerful antioxidants that may help fight cancer, heart disease, and relieve pain associated with arthritis. Tart cherries are especially high in the antioxidant melatonin, which may help prevent or reduce brain deterioration associated with aging. Additionally, cherries are high in vitamin A and beta-carotene; and

WHEREAS, The Cherry Marketing Institute (CMI) was formed in 1988 and is funded by U.S. tart cherry growers. The goal of the CMI is to increase the use of cherries through promotion, market expansion, product development, and research; and

WHEREAS, Growers, processors, and merchants continue to support the Grand Traverse region with community support and a push promote the impact and benefits of the cherry harvest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the members of this legislative body commemorate May 22, 2024, as Cherry Industry Day.

Adopted by the Senate, May 22, 2024.



Secretary of the Senate