

Senators McManus, Jelinek, Brown, Van Woerkom, Garcia, Allen and Goschka offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 118.

A resolution declaring April 2006 as Michigan Wine Month.

Whereas, Michigan's excellent wines are an important part of the state's agricultural diversity; and

Whereas, Michigan's grape-growing industry began in the southwestern part of Michigan in the mid-nineteenth century, and today has grown to include 45 wineries and an additional 16 tasting rooms located throughout the state; and

Whereas, Vineyards and wineries are an important component of Michigan's agricultural tourism industry; and

Whereas, The four federally-recognized viticultural areas in Michigan--Fennville, Lake Michigan Shore, Leelanau Peninsula, and Old Mission Peninsula--are the result of the moderating influence of Lake Michigan, excellent drainage, and light soil conditions, which are similar to conditions in the fine wine regions in Europe; and

Whereas, Vintners in Michigan have cultivated a wide variety of grapes, which allows them to produce a wide selection of quality wines--many of which have received national and international awards--including reds, whites, blushes, and sparkling and nonalcoholic juices; and

Whereas, Michigan vintners are supportive of the "wine in moderation" concept and promote the health aspect of wine, as well as the idea that wine is a food and should be enjoyed and complemented with other foods; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body declare April 2006 as Michigan Wine Month; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Department of Agriculture as a token of our support.