

Senators Moolenaar, Hood, Pappageorge, Gregory and Emmons offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 79.

A resolution recognizing Ford Motor Company being honored as a recipient of the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Whereas, The Freedom Award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Department of Defense upon America's employers, providing exceptional support to their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve; and

Whereas, The Freedom Award recognizes employers for the formal and informal initiatives they put in place for Guard and Reserve employees and their families. In the U.S., Ford Motor Company employs more than 700 reservists and guardsmen and more than 7,000 veterans. Ford presently has nearly 30 employees actively serving in the military; and

Whereas, Ford Motor Company is one of 15 companies nationwide selected for this prestigious award; and

Whereas, Ford has a longstanding commitment to its veterans and military personnel. Its relationship with Disabled American Veterans (DAV) began in 1922 when Henry Ford organized a cross-country caravan of 50 Model Ts to take disabled veterans to their convention in San Francisco. Since 1974, Ford Motor Company and the Ford Motor Company Fund have provided more than \$6 million to veterans' organizations; and

Whereas, The Ford Veterans Network Group, one of Ford's corporately-supported Employee Resource Groups, sponsors activities throughout the year in support of its veterans, military personnel, and their families, which reflects the commitment of Ford Motor Company; and

Whereas, A national selection board composed of senior defense officials, business leaders, and prior awardees selected the recipients of the awards; and

Whereas, Ford Motor Company and its employees are honored members of the Michigan community. It employs more than 40,000 people at 16 major manufacturing facilities in Michigan. In 2010, Ford purchased \$15.8 billion worth of goods and services from more than 2,000 Michigan-based suppliers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby officially recognize Ford Motor Company being honored as a recipient of the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for its outstanding service to the United States and its veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Ford Motor Company as evidence of our highest esteem.