

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.289

Reps. Meerman, Garza and Marino offered the following resolution:

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

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

11 Whereas, Fertilizer is a critical agricultural input that is
12 utilized by farmers to provide nutrients to their land and maximize

1 the productivity of their farms. Michigan farmers require access to
2 fertilizers in order to nourish their land and maintain production
3 levels; and

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

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

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

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

1 skyrocketing costs continue to burden Michigan farmers; and

2 Whereas, Legislation has been introduced in Congress that

3 would allow a process for farmers to petition the ITC to

4 temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer and fertilizer

5 ingredients. With the price of fertilizer on the rise, this would

6 help alleviate costs for farmers, as Morocco is one of the top five

7 exporters of fertilizer to the United States; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge

9 Congress to pass legislation that would allow farmers to petition

10 the ITC to temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer and

11 fertilizer ingredients imported from Morocco; and be it further

12 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

13 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United

14 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan

15 congressional delegation.