

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

Rep. Alexander offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 23, 2021, as Agriculture Day in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Each year, states across the nation recognize March
4 as a time to celebrate the importance of food and agriculture as a
5 significant contributor to the national economy; and

6 Whereas, The Michigan food and agriculture industry
7 contributes more than \$104.7 billion annually to the state's
8 economy. It is a major source of employment for the state's
9 workforce, supporting approximately 805,000 jobs and roughly 17.2
10 percent of the state's workforce; and

11 Whereas, Michigan's food and agriculture sector are the second
12 most diverse in the country with nearly 47,000 farms, 99 percent of
13 which are family-owned, farming nearly 10 million acres of

1 farmland, and commercially producing more than 300 food and
2 agricultural commodities. The state is the largest producer of
3 asparagus, cucumbers, squash, and many bedding plants grown in
4 greenhouses, and ranks in the top ten for 29 additional
5 commodities, including apples, blueberries, and cherries; and

6 Whereas, Michigan greenhouses and nurseries rank 3rd
7 nationally in overall economic impact of plant production.
8 Greenhouses are the 4th largest segment of Michigan's agriculture
9 economy. Greenhouse and nursery products generate 14% of Michigan's
10 total agricultural revenues. Michigan greenhouse production boast
11 first in production of many bedding plants including petunias,
12 geraniums, and impatiens; and

13 Whereas, Twenty-four percent of Michigan's agricultural
14 revenues are generated by dairy products, most notably, milk, and
15 cheese; and

16 Whereas, Michigan exports about one-third of its agricultural
17 commodities each year, generating nearly \$2 billion. Almost 40
18 percent of Michigan's agricultural exports go directly to Canada,
19 our number one export market, and rounding out the top countries
20 eager for Michigan-grown products are Mexico, Japan, South Korea
21 and China; and

22 Whereas, Michigan's food and agricultural sector continues to
23 be a growing industry offering new business and career
24 opportunities for Michiganders, making food and agriculture a
25 cornerstone of Michigan's continued prosperity; and

26 Resolved by the House of the Representatives, That the members
27 of this legislative body declare March 23, 2021, as Agriculture Day
28 in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to recognize
29 and celebrate this momentous occasion.