

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.289

Rep. Meerman 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  
13 the productivity of their farms. Michigan farmers require access to

1 fertilizers in order to nourish their land and maintain production  
2 levels; and

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

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

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

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

1       Whereas, Legislation has been introduced in Congress that  
2 would allow a process for farmers to petition the ITC to  
3 temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer and fertilizer  
4 ingredients. With the price of fertilizer on the rise, this would  
5 help alleviate costs for farmers, as Morocco is one of the top five  
6 exporters of fertilizer to the United States; now, therefore, be it

7       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge  
8 Congress to pass legislation that would allow farmers to petition  
9 the ITC to temporarily waive tariffs on imports of fertilizer and  
10 fertilizer ingredients imported from Morocco; and be it further

11       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
12 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
13 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
14 congressional delegation.