

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 265

Reps. Sabo, Brixie, Chirkun, Haadsma, Hood, Kuppa, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare May 2020 as Oak Wilt Awareness Month  
2 in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Oak wilt, a deadly disease of oak trees caused by a  
4 fungal pathogen, is threatening Michigan's oak trees; and

5           Whereas, Oak wilt is an invasive species found in Michigan and  
6 much of the eastern and central United States and is responsible  
7 for the death of hundreds of thousands of oak trees; and

8           Whereas, The oak wilt fungus can be spread by common sap  
9 beetles from infected oak trees to freshly wounded healthy oak  
10 trees, especially during spring and early summer, quickly killing  
11 red oak species; and

12           Whereas, The oak wilt fungus can also be transported long



1 distances in infected oak firewood and unprocessed wood products;  
2 and

3       Whereas, New infections and spread of oak wilt can be limited  
4 and prevented by avoiding unnecessary pruning or wounding of oak  
5 trees during the high risk period of April 15 through July 15; and

6       Whereas, Nearly 500 million oak trees make up an important  
7 part of Michigan's rural and community forests, providing a  
8 significant source of food and habitat for wildlife and adding  
9 immeasurable beauty and character to Michigan's diverse landscapes  
10 and communities; and

11       Whereas, Oak trees are also an important part of the outdoor  
12 recreation and wood products industries that help sustain  
13 Michigan's environment and economy; and

14       Whereas, The economic and ecological costs associated with oak  
15 wilt and its impacts to communities, utilities, outdoor recreation,  
16 forestry and wood products and other industries are significant;  
17 and

18       Whereas, All residents are encouraged to learn about oak wilt  
19 and the many ways to prevent its spread; now, therefore, be it

20       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
21 this legislative body declare May 2020 as Oak Wilt Awareness Month  
22 in the state of Michigan.