

# SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 71

Senators Schmidt and Daley offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to support the U.S. cherry industry's petition  
2 before the U.S. International Trade Commission stating unfair trade  
3 practices against Turkey and to urge the Commission and the U.S.  
4 Department of Commerce to take action protecting U.S. cherry  
5 farmers.

6 Whereas, Michigan is the primary tart cherry producing state,  
7 growing 189 million pounds in 2017, or nearly 75% of the nation's  
8 crop. Tart cherry production in the United States totaled 259.5  
9 million pounds in 2017, valued at \$56.8 million; and

10 Whereas, Turkish imports have caused tart cherry prices to  
11 crash, significantly damaging Michigan's industry. The amount of  
12 dried cherries imported from Turkey have grown exponentially over  
13 the last three years, more than tripling from 2016 to 2018.

1 Subsidized by the Turkish government, Turkish cherries sell for 89  
2 cents per pound while the U.S. product sells for an average of  
3 \$4.60 per pound; and

4       Whereas, On April 23, 2019, the Dried Tart Cherry Trade  
5 Committee filed petitions with the U.S. International Trade  
6 Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce, claiming that  
7 Turkey is flooding the U.S. market with dried tart cherries,  
8 lowering domestic product prices and causing material injury to  
9 tart cherry producers in Michigan and other cherry growing states;  
10 and

11       Whereas, In June, the U.S. International Trade Commission  
12 issued a preliminary ruling that Turkish imports "had a significant  
13 adverse impact on the domestic industry." A final ruling is  
14 expected early next year. If Turkish imports are determined to be  
15 injurious to the U.S. market, the Department of Commerce will  
16 determine the duties to be imposed; and

17       Whereas, If the industry loses its case, few cherry growers  
18 will survive. Already trees are being destroyed as it costs more  
19 to harvest fruit than the current return on the product. Jobs will  
20 be lost both in seasonal workers in the field and the thousands of  
21 employees in processing plants who work year-round preparing  
22 cherries for market; now, therefore, be it

23       Resolved by the Senate, That we support the U.S. cherry  
24 industry's petition before the U.S. International Trade Commission  
25 stating unfair trade practices against Turkey and urge the  
26 Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce to take action  
27 protecting U.S. cherry farmers; and be it further

28       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
29 members of the U.S. International Trade Commission, the United

- 1 States Secretary of Commerce, and the members of the Michigan
- 2 congressional delegation.