

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

Senator Damoose offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate May 22, 2024, as Cherry Industry
2 Day.

3 Whereas, One of the most beautiful sites in Michigan or
4 anywhere in the world during the month of May is the blossoming of
5 the cherries trees; and

6 Whereas, Michigan is the number one cherry producing state in
7 the nation and is the unofficial "Cherry Capitol of the World"; and

8 Whereas, Our state hosts the world's largest cherry
9 celebration, the National Cherry Festival. It takes place each July
10 in Traverse City, Michigan, welcoming more than 500,000 people to
11 celebrate and promote cherries, community involvement, and the
12 Grand Traverse region; and

13 Whereas, In 1926, the first 'Blessing of the Blossoms

1 Festival' was held on this date before evolving into the National
2 Cherry Festival as we know it today; and

3 Whereas, The United States (U.S.) produces about 610 million
4 pounds of sweet and tart cherries each year, with Michigan
5 producing the largest tart cherry crop. An average of almost 250
6 million pounds of tart cherries are harvested each year, with 75
7 percent coming from our state; and

8 Whereas, Cherries contain powerful antioxidants that may help
9 fight cancer, heart disease, and relieve pain associated with
10 arthritis. Tart cherries are especially high in the antioxidant
11 melatonin, which may help prevent or reduce brain deterioration
12 associated with aging. Additionally, cherries are high in vitamin A
13 and beta-carotene; and

14 Whereas, The Cherry Marketing Institute (CMI) was formed in
15 1988 and is funded by U.S. tart cherry growers. The goal of the CMI
16 is to increase the use of cherries through promotion, market
17 expansion, product development, and research; and

18 Whereas, Growers, processors, and merchants continue to
19 support the Grand Traverse region with community support and a push
20 promote the impact and benefits of the cherry harvest; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
23 body commemorate May 22, 2024, as Cherry Industry Day.