

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29

Reps. Johnsen, Meerman, Wortz, Neyer, Woolford, Aragona, Cavitt, Roth, Miller, Greene, Wozniak, Alexander, Kelly, Fairbairn, Steele, Pavlov, Hoadley, Bierlein, Kunse, Beson, BeGole, Frisbie, Rigas, Fox and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States Congress to pass
2 legislation temporarily freezing the Adverse Effect Wage Rate for
3 the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program.

4 Whereas, Michigan farmers participating in the federal H-2A
5 program must pay temporary foreign workers 18.15 dollars per hour,
6 the 2025 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) in Michigan. The Adverse
7 Effect Wage Rate for agricultural workers in Michigan, which is set
8 annually by the U.S. Department of Labor, has increased by 81
9 percent since 2008 and 34 percent since 2019; and

10 Whereas, According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farm
11 production expenses in the United States totaled 481 billion

1 dollars in 2023, a nearly 125 billion dollar increase since 2019.
2 Congress now has the opportunity to help bring down some of these
3 rapidly increasing costs for Michigan farmers by freezing the
4 Adverse Effect Wage Rate; and

5 Whereas, During the 118th Congress, Michigan U.S. Congressman
6 John Moolenaar introduced the "Supporting Farm Operations Act of
7 2024," directing the Secretary of Labor to ensure that the Adverse
8 Effect Wage Rate for H-2A workers that was in effect on December
9 31, 2023 remains the rate through December 31, 2025. Agricultural
10 organizations in Michigan, including the Michigan Agri-Business
11 Association and Michigan Pork Producers, have voiced their support
12 for Congressman Moolenaar's bill as they recognize that if the cost
13 of farming continues to increase, farms across the state will be
14 forced to shut down. The loss of farms will be catastrophic for the
15 state, not only because agriculture is a leading economic engine
16 for Michigan, but also because farms serve as the backbone of our
17 rural communities; and

18 Whereas, In addition to labor costs, farmers have experienced
19 skyrocketing price increases in feed, fertilizer, machinery, and
20 more. Congress should not waste the opportunity to provide much
21 needed relief from rising costs by ensuring that the Adverse Effect
22 Wage Rate does not continue to climb; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
24 United States Congress to pass legislation temporarily freezing the
25 Adverse Effect Wage Rate for the H-2A Temporary Agricultural
26 Workers Program; and be it further

27 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
28 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
29 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan

1 congressional delegation.