

Reps. Huckleberry, Espinoza, McDowell, Nerat, Byrum, Segal, Scripps, Barnett, Slezak, Griffin, Terry Brown, Valentine, Haase, Ball, Booher, Byrnes, Calley, Caul, Constan, Dean, DeShazor, Durhal, Geiss, Gonzales, Gregory, Hansen, Haugh, Robert Jones, Kowall, Kurtz, Lindberg, Liss, Lori, Lund, Mayes, Neumann, Opsommer, Pearce, Polidori, Proos, Rogers, Sheltroun, Slavens, Spade, Stanley, Switalski and Tyler offered the following resolution:

**House Resolution No. 207.**

A resolution honoring the Michigan potato industry for its role in meeting the food needs of the citizens of the state of Michigan in an economical manner.

Whereas, The Michigan potato industry has become economically viable with the assistance of research, promotion, education, and communication; and

Whereas, These factors have fostered a competitiveness that has yielded a near-doubling of the annual value of the Michigan potato crop in only a dozen years, from \$80 million in 1996 to \$156 million in 2008; and

Whereas, The Michigan potato industry is capable of meeting the fresh-potato needs of every man, woman and child in Michigan while also emerging as a leading supplier to the nation's chip manufacturers, strengthening its role as one of Michigan's leading produce commodities; and

Whereas, The Michigan potato industry has stepped forward in these difficult times to provide locally grown potatoes to Michigan State Industries (MSI) when Governor Jennifer Granholm instituted a new government purchasing policy termed "Buy Michigan First." The Michigan-grown potatoes are not only competitive with out-of-state supplies but also claim the natural advantage of lower freight costs in an era of high energy prices and furthermore retain money within the state for circulation through local economies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body honor the Michigan potato industry for its thriving viability despite a severe economic downturn; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Potato Industry Commission, in recognition of our most sincere commendation of Michigan potato growers for their vital participation in the collaboration between the Legislature, the Executive Office, state agencies and the agricultural community to gain maximum benefits from limited state funds during these difficult economic times.