

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

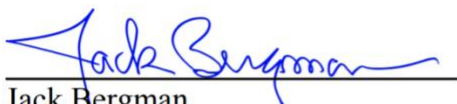
We write in support of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's disaster declaration request due to abnormally high rainfall in western lower Michigan that is impacting sweet cherry production. We have heard from farmers in our districts that have seen near total cherry crop loss.

The higher-than-average rainfall has led to an increase in Spotted Wing Drosophila and fungi like Cherry Leaf Spot and American Brown Rot. Taken together these pests and diseases have decimated cherry production in Michigan.

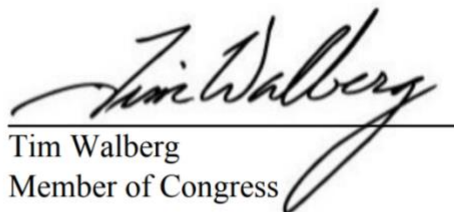
While the monthly county by county surveys collected by the USDA Farm Services Agency are not yet available, we ask that when the information becomes available you act swiftly to provide the resources to farmers to ensure Michigan -the #1 cherry producing state in the U.S.- can continue to supply American families with the high-quality Michigan cherries that they love.

We stand ready to assist to ensure this disaster is mitigated and look forward to working with USDA to help cherry producers.

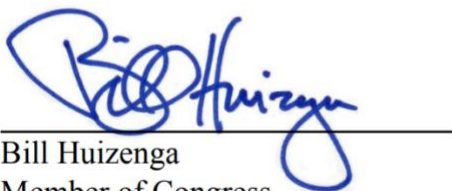
Sincerely,



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress