

LANGLADE COUNTY



RESOLUTION #2-2023

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: REQUESTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO ENACT NEW POLICIES AND LEGISLATION TO BETTER PROTECT THE STATE'S AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM ACQUISITION BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, when a foreign government (or other entity on behalf of a foreign government) is able to purchase significant acres of agricultural land in the United States, such acquisitions can affect local land rights, agricultural production and national food security; and

WHEREAS, foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land doubled from 2009 to 2019, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and according to the USDA, foreign agricultural interests in Wisconsin, as of December 31st, 2020, own over 500,000 acres of land in the state with that number rising by over 25,000 acres from 2019 to 2020 alone; and

WHEREAS, the only federal law governing these transactions is the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) of 1978. The AFIDA only requires foreign entities to report transactions of farmland to the USDA. As a result, the general public does not have a complete picture of which foreign entities own how much U.S. farmland or what the land is being used for. On the state level, regulations vary. Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres of agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic shows the need to localize supply chains, especially for food and medicine, and to keep them out of the hands of adversarial governments or entities party to adversarial governments; and


WHEREAS, with the reality that supply chain disruption could happen again in the future, it is prudent to limit the exposure of these critical supply chains to entities party to governments who routinely abuse human rights, violate international trade law and labor standards and seek to upend fair markets through state owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition.

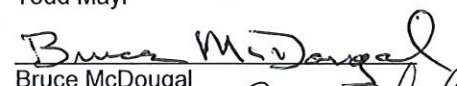
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors to hereby request that the State of Wisconsin, in the next legislative biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Winnebago County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties.

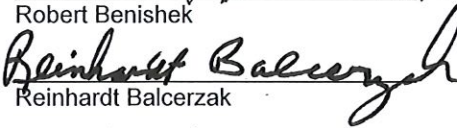
LANGLADE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:


Ben Pierce, Chairman


Todd Mayr


Bruce McDougal


Robert Benishek

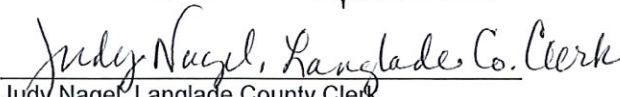

Reinhardt Balcerzak

absent
John Medo

Vacant

FISCAL NOTE: No Fiscal Note.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE
COUNTY THIS 27th DAY OF April, 2023.


Judy Nagel, Langlade Co. Clerk

Judy Nagel, Langlade County Clerk

rn