

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 14-2023**

**Request for State of Wisconsin to Review and Revise its Policy on Foreign Ownership of Farmland**

The County Board of Supervisors of Green Lake County, Green Lake, Wisconsin, duly assembled at its regular meeting begun on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023, does resolve as follows:

- 1 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as of
- 2 December 31, 2020, foreign agricultural entities in Wisconsin own over 500,000 acres of
- 3 land in the state, with that number having risen by over 25,000 acres from 2019 to 2020
- 4 alone.
  
- 5 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres of
- 6 agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual.
  
- 7 Fiscal note is attached.
  
- 8 vote is needed to pass.

Roll Call on Resolution No. 14-2023

Submitted by Land Conservation Committee:

Ayes 17, Nays 0, Absent 2, Abstain 0

/s/ Bob Schweder

Bob Schweder, Chair

Passed and Adopted/~~Rejected~~ this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

/s/ Ken Bates

Ken Bates, Vice-Chair

/s/ David Abendroth

County Board Chairman

/s/ Bill Boutwell

Bill Boutwell

/s/ Elizabeth A. Otto

ATTEST: County Clerk  
Approve as to Form:

/s/ Nancy Hiestand

Nancy Hiestand

/s/ Jeffrey Mann

Corporation Counsel

Wes Eisenga

/s/ Arnie Dahlke

Arnie Dahlke

9 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the need to localize supply chains,  
10 especially for food and medicine, and to keep them out of the hands of adversarial  
11 governments and those entities associated therewith.

12 **WHEREAS**, it would be prudent to limit the exposure of such critical supply chains to  
13 governments and associated entities who routinely abuse human rights, violate  
14 international trade law and labor standards, and seek to upend fair markets through  
15 state owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security  
16 and the Wisconsin family farming tradition.

17 **WHEREAS**, it would be to the benefit of the citizens of Green Lake County, the State of  
18 Wisconsin and the United States to have local farmland be held by United States  
19 citizens, permanent residents of the United States, and companies incorporated in the  
20 United States that aren't controlled by foreign entities.

21 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Green Lake County Board of  
22 Supervisors does respectfully request that the State of Wisconsin, in the next legislative  
23 biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland, and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to  
25 Governor Tony Evers, all members of the State Legislature, the Wisconsin Counties  
26 Association, and all other Wisconsin Counties.

27 **FISCAL NOTE:** no immediate impact