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**RESOLUTION No. 579-23**

**REQUEST FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO REVISE ITS POLICY OF  
FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF FARMLAND**

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as of December 31, 2020, foreign agricultural entities in Wisconsin own over 500,000 acres of land in the state, with that number having risen by over 25,000 acres from 2019 to 2020 alone; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres total of agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual; and,

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

WHEREAS, it would be prudent to limit the exposure of such critical supply chains to governments and associated entities 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; and,

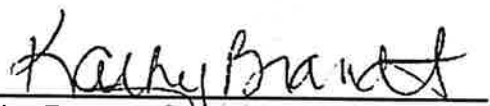
WHEREAS, it would be to the benefit of the citizens of Marinette County, the State of Wisconsin and the United States to have local farmland be held by United States citizens, permanent residents of the United States, and companies incorporated in the United States that aren't controlled by foreign entities; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marinette County Board of Supervisors does respectfully request that the State of Wisconsin, in the next legislative biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, all members of the State Legislature, all County Land Conservation Departments in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Approved this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 2023 by a majority vote of a quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisor.

  
John Guarisco, Chair

  
Kathy Brandt, County Clerk

Recommended Development Committee – October 10, 2023

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