



BAP

Motion: Adopted:

1st Fischer Lost:

2nd LaFontaine Tabled:

No: 0 Yes: 19 Absent: 0

Number of votes required:
 Majority Two-thirds

Reviewed by: PK, Corp Counsel

Reviewed by: EN, Finance Dir.

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To seek County Board approval to request 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 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

		NO	YES	A
1	LaFontaine, D		X	
2	Rozar, D		X	
3	Buttke, T		X	
4	Wagner, E		X	
5	Fischer, A		X	
6	Breu, A		X	
7	Voight, W		X	
8	Hahn, J		X	
9	Winch, W		X	
10	Thao, L		X	
11	Penzkover, J		X	
12	Valenstein, L		X	
13	Hokamp, J		X	
14	Polach, D		X	
15	Clendenning, B		X	
16	Pliml, L		X	
17	Zurfluh, J		X	
18	Hamilton, B		X	
19	Leichtnam, B		X	

WHEREAS, it would be to the benefit of the citizens of Wood 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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood 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.

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Bill Leichtnam (Chair) Bill Leichtnam

Tom Buttke _____

Jake Hahn Jake Hahn

Dave LaFontaine David LaFontaine

Laura Valenstein Laura Valenstein

Carmen Good - Citizens Member Carmen Good

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this 17th day of October 2023

[Signature] County Clerk [Signature] County Board Chairman