



Buffalo County Resolution

Drafted By: Lee Engfer
Month/Year: June 2023
Committee: Land Management

Departments: Land Management
Fiscal Impact: Yes/No

Resolution # 23-08-05

A Resolution Regarding Foreign Ownership of Farmland

WHEREAS, according to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), as of December 31, 2020, foreign agricultural interests in Wisconsin 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, 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 foreign governments who routinely abuse human rights, violate international trade law and labor standards, and seek to upend fair market through state-owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors, at the recommendation of the supervisors on the Land Management Committee, respectfully requests the State of Wisconsin, in the next legislative biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland and forestland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Buffalo County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Buffalo County Land Management Director, Wisconsin Counties Association, all Wisconsin Counties, Wisconsin Land & Water Association, State Senator and State Representatives representing Buffalo County, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Senators and Representatives representing Wisconsin in the federal legislature.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors on this 28th day of August, 2023.

ATTEST:

Roxann Halverson
Roxann Halverson, Buffalo County Clerk

Dennis Bork
Dennis Bork, Buffalo County Chairperson

Buffalo County Resolution

Respectfully Submitted:

Finance Committee


Dennis Bork, Chair

Excused
Max Weiss, Vice Chair

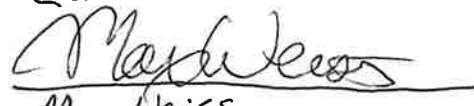

William Bruegger, Sr.


Brian Michaels



Chris Lindstrom




Joe Bruegger

Land Management

Max Weiss


Dwight K. Huff


Gary Stanton

Excused
John Sendelbach


Chris Lindstrom