



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Amy Sue Vruwink
70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Amy Sue Vruwink

January 20, 2011
608-266-8366

Vruwink Amendment to TORT Reform Bill *Intent to Protect Farmers*

State Representative Amy Sue Vruwink (D-Milladore) issued the following statement regarding Amendment 20, that she authored and introduced on the floor of the State Assembly today for Special Session Senate Bill 1. The proposed amendment would allow an exemption for “farm equipment” from lawsuit protection that is over 15 years old.

“As written, the current bill does not consider the farming industry or protect our farmers. If a farmer is injured or killed while using equipment older than 15 years, they will be unable to bring a case against the manufacturer,” said Vruwink.

There is concern because majority of farming equipment is well over 15 years old, which is the bill’s limit on manufacturer’s liability. The average farm tractor is at least 25 years old, and farm equipment usually lasts longer. Although this is only one aspect of the complex bill, Rep. Vruwink believed this amendment was necessary to protect farmers and ensure safety for farming families in Central Wisconsin.

“The bill could also hamper safety improvements and quality of farming equipment. As a ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, I will continue to advocate for farmers,” stated Vruwink. “The bill will not create jobs and will not hold manufacturer’s accountable for faulty or unsafe equipment. Again, partisan politics is getting in the way of common sense issues.”

Unfortunately, Rep. Vruwink’s amendment was not adopted and failed on a party-line vote. She is hopeful that Governor Scott Walker will add her provisions to this legislation before it is signed into law.

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