



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Assembly Republicans Unveiled Agriculture Package

On February 10th, my regional colleagues and I held a press conference on a farm in Eau Claire regarding the recent agriculture package that was introduced to address short and long-term difficulties facing “America’s Dairyland.”

I am proud to be a part of such an extraordinary effort and having the opportunity to help the agricultural industry across our great state of Wisconsin. This package includes a number of bills addressing the direct needs of our farmers and provides over \$30 million in aid, compared to the Governor’s proposed \$8.5 million package.

The bill that I have authored as part of the agriculture package modifies the medical care insurance subtraction for self-employed individuals. Essentially, small farmers will now be able to deduct the cost of their healthcare from their taxes. This means that there will be more money in the pockets of our small farmers, not just bigger farms that are currently able to utilize this.

There are a number of other bills that my colleagues introduced. One of these includes an income tax credit for the property taxes paid on agricultural buildings and improvements. This is a refundable tax credit capped at \$7,500 annually on buildings exclusively used for farming purposes for those who show a gross income over \$35,000.

In addition, there are other pieces of legislation in the package including requiring a study of agricultural programs and issues by the University of Wisconsin System, and requiring UW-Madison to conduct a research study on developing an agricultural science and technology program. I have also introduced a resolution asking the Federal government to allow milk choice in our schools, as well as a bill for schools to be able to apply for grants for milk dispensaries.

On top of those bills, there is a Wisconsin Initiative for Dairy Exports to expand upon our exports as well as provide grants to dairy processing plants.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection released that there are more than 14 million acres comprised of almost 65,000 farms. Over 435,000 jobs are due to our agricultural industry, which accounts for 11% of our state’s employment. As a result, our agricultural industry provides for a \$104 billion industry.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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