

February 22, 2010

TO: Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly

RE: Sustain Veto of AB 138

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of hard-working farm families across the state of Wisconsin, **we urge you to sustain the Governor's veto by voting NO on the override attempt of AB 138**, which is legislation that allows the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Board to appoint the Secretary instead of allowing the Governor to continue to appoint the Secretary as it has been since 1995. A veto of this legislation would ensure that the Secretary of the DNR will continue to be held accountable by the Governor who was elected by the citizens of Wisconsin.

As you know, agriculture is a huge component of our state's economy by contributing more than \$60 billion a year. Wisconsin is home to a diverse range of agriculture that includes both livestock and crop production. As a result of the impact of agriculture to the state's economy, farmers interact with the DNR on a constant basis by complying with a myriad of regulations that are placed on them.

In order to remain competitive in today's global economy, Wisconsin farm families employ the latest technologies to maintain a competitive edge in the marketplace. However, much of that competitive edge could be at risk if our state's policy makers continue to place undue, burdensome regulations on our producers. That is why it is so important for Wisconsin agriculture to have a Secretary that is appointed and held accountable by the state's Governor. The Governor, who is popularly-elected, by the citizens of this state should be the person who makes this crucial appointment because of the direct accountability the Governor will have over this important appointment to the state's economy.

Farmers and others who greatly enjoy the outdoors have an important stake in the state's water and air quality and want to ensure that is protected for generations to come. It is from the land where farmers make their living, raise their families and employ thousands of their neighbors in rural communities across the state...so it is very important to farmers that we have a DNR held directly accountable by the residents of this state.

Again, thank you for all you have done on behalf of Wisconsin agriculture, **and we urge you to sustain the Governor's veto of AB 138 by voting NO on the override attempt.**

Sincerely,

WI Dairy Business Association

WI Farm Bureau Federation

WI Corn Growers Association

WI Soybean Association

WI Crop Production Association

WI Green Industry Federation

WI National Farmers Organization

WI Agri-Service Association

WI Poultry and Egg Association

WI Agribusiness Council

Midwest Food Processors Association