



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senate Passes Two Ballweg Bills

Madison... Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) authored two bills that passed the Senate floor unanimously.

The first bill creates a comprehensive agricultural export program which charges the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in collaboration with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to increase the value of Wisconsin's dairy, meat and crop exports. It also requires reports to the legislature on the progress of the program to ensure it is providing real results.

"Agriculture is the second largest industry in our state, and we are in the top 10 states for agriculture production, yet we only rank 13th for our food, forestry and agricultural exports," said Ballweg. "I am proud to see this bill, which will create lasting impacts for our agriculture industry, take this next step toward being signed into law."

The agriculture exports program was introduced with Representative Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and has the support of various agriculture groups including the Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association, Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association and Dairy Business Association.

The second bill updates the way municipalities collect room tax and was introduced in effort to make it easier for the municipalities to know how much they are due and give them the needed tools to collect it. This bill brings parity in room tax collection between the traditional hotel lodging industry and lodging marketplaces.

To reach Sen. Ballweg with questions or comments please call (608) 266-0751 or email Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov. The 14th Senate District is located in Central Wisconsin, and is composed of parts of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Outagamie, Sauk, Waupaca, and Waushara counties.

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