



March 6, 2023

## **Legislators Testin and Oldenburg Aim to Revitalize Farmland Preservation**

*Farmers and Conservationists Come Together in Support of Reform*

**MADISON** – Wisconsin lost nearly one million acres of farmland between 2010 and 2021. A bi-partisan group of legislators led by Senator Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Representative Loren Oldenburg (Viroqua) are trying to reverse the trend by re-introducing legislation to update the farmland preservation program.

The bill incentivizes farmers to participate in the longstanding program that helps preserve farmland and safeguard soil and water by shortening the required length of participation and increasing the size of the tax credits offered.

“Since 1977, the farmland preservation program has helped Wisconsin farmers be good stewards of the land,” said Senator Testin. “By revitalizing it, we’re investing in the future of our farmers and our environment.”

Farmers and conservation advocates have been supportive of previous attempts to improve the program.

“We’re making this program more responsive to the needs of farmers and the environment,” noted Rep. Oldenburg. “Our efforts have led to support from farmers, conservationists, and folks from across the political spectrum.”

The proposal will circulate for co-sponsorship until March 13<sup>th</sup>.

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