



BRAD PFAFF
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preserving Our Farmland

The Driftless Region is home to a beautiful landscape of rolling hills, coulees, and valleys. Nestled amongst the landscape are many family farmers who work the land and produce high quality milk and other agriculture products.

As the son and grandson of family farmers, and the former Agriculture Secretary for the state of Wisconsin, I understand the importance of these practices to maintain our farmland.

In Wisconsin, the Farmland Preservation Program incentivizes farmers and eligible landowners to use reliable conservation practices, and in turn, they earn a per-acre tax credit.

The Farmland Preservation Program has been around for more than 40 years and has long held bipartisan support across Wisconsin. Many family farmers in our state have participated in this program since its inception, including my own family.

This program is a tool for landowners and family farmers to maintain their farmland, as well as an incentive to encourage the next generation of family farmers to enter the agriculture field.

Unfortunately, participation in the Farmland Preservation Program has declined in recent years. To remedy this, we need to update the program to make it even more productive going forward. I am part of a bipartisan group of legislators who are proposing an increase in the per-acre tax credit that farms are able to receive and shortening the participation agreement from 15 years to 10 for some participants.

These changes will make the program more accessible and beneficial for our farmers.

I'm proud to support this legislation and efforts to protect and conserve farmland across western Wisconsin. This bill is a win-win – a win for soil health and water quality, and a win for production agriculture.

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Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.