

135-112022

**RESOLUTION: Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise its Policy on Foreign Ownership of Farmland by Entities Party to Adversarial Governments**

**TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

**WHEREAS**, according to the USDA, foreign agricultural interests in Wisconsin, as of December 31st, 2020, own over 500,000 acres of land in the state with that number rising by over 25,000 acres from 2019 to 2020 alone; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres of agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic shows the need to localize supply chains, especially for food and medicine, and to keep them out of the hands of adversarial governments or entities party to adversarial governments; and

**WHEREAS**, with the reality that supply chain disruption could happen again in the future, it is prudent to limit the exposure of these critical supply chains to entities party to governments who routinely abuse human rights, violate international trade law and labor standards and seek to upend fair markets through state owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors request that the State of Wisconsin, in the next legislative biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Winnebago County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties.

Fiscal Note: *No fiscal impact.*

Respectfully submitted by:

**JACOB FLOAM, District 16**

**NATE GUSTAFSON, District 28**

Respectfully submitted by:

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Committee Vote: **10-1**

Vote Required for Passage: **Three-Quarters of those Members Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan D. Doemel  
Winnebago County Executive