

July 9, 2019

Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection:

I am writing today relative to the vote to be taken July 10, 2019, regarding the Livestock Siting Rule. The work of the Livestock Siting Technical Committee deserves a public hearing. This committee has put forward recommendations based on their expertise, advances in technology and growth in the industry which need to be given thoughtful and legitimate consideration.

The Livestock Siting Rule has not seen any changes since its passage in 2004 while industrial agriculture has grown tremendously and affects thousands living in rural Wisconsin. The impact on the lives of the neighbors of these mega-farms is multi-dimensional. Our air and water quality is affected by the concentration of animals and their waste. Our roads deteriorate at a rapid rate due to the size and volume of heavy traffic that passes over them in connection with these operations. Property values for those within close proximity decrease, leaving owners with assets that are more difficult to sell.

While the Livestock Siting Rule cannot address all of our concerns, we hope that you will allow us the opportunity to address those issues that are dealt with by ATCP51 through a public hearing on the draft changes.

Respectfully submitted,

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