



GARY TAUCHEN

State Representative • 6th Assembly District

(608) 266-3097
FAX (608) 282-3606
Toll-Free (888) 529-0006
Rep.Tauchen@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

TO: Chairman Moulton and the Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism

FROM: Representative Gary Tauchen

DATE: January 9, 2018

RE: SB 667 Testimony

Good morning Chairman Moulton and committee members, and thank you for hearing testimony on this important piece of legislation.

The Livestock Premises Registration legislation is a bi-partisan piece of legislation intended to help fund the premises program through 2019. In 1998 a discovery tour of the Netherlands and Denmark was taken to look at and bring back, and apply to Wisconsin ideas that made sense.

In 2002 a non-profit livestock producer and industry organization was established called the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC). Wisconsin's \$88 billion agriculture industry is heavily dependent on the livestock industry. On December 23, 2003 "the cow that destroyed Christmas" event occurred and threatened an entire industry. A Holstein in Washington State had tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) for the first time in the United States. Its origin was traced back to Alberta, Canada.

In 2004, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to require premises registration. The original Wisconsin Livestock Premises Registration Act required anyone who keeps, houses, or co-mingles livestock to register their premises in order to protect animal health, safeguard market access, and offer opportunities to enhance the marketability of Wisconsin livestock products. Wisconsin became the model for other states trying to implement the trace back system. Prior to Federal entitlement cuts in 2011, Congress had provided roughly \$1 million per year in funding. With those cuts, the state of Wisconsin was statutorily required to maintain this program.

Rather than DATCP absorbing those responsibilities, a public-private partnership with WLIC is much more efficient and cheaper for the state as whole. Ag-security and trace-back modeling has allowed our state veterinarian, Dr. McGraw, to maintain tabs on animal disease.

Currently, the WLIC program costs roughly \$350K to operate per year, with the state funding \$250K of that total. WLIC has been using \$100K per year from their reserves to fill the gap and those funds are now exhausted. WLIC has hired a new CEO who specializes in fundraising. This bill provides funding and allows some time for the new CEO to get established and secure additional funding.

I would like to thank Senator Olsen for being the Senate author for this legislation. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to testify this morning and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.



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The cow who stole Christmas

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A Canadian one, of course

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SHE developed paralysis, poor thing, after giving birth to an unusually large calf. That changed her status from milk producer to “downer”, the dairy industry’s word for a cow unable to stand up. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that downers account for between 130,000 and 195,000 of the total of 35m cows slaughtered each year.

Her owner, the Sunny Dene Ranch dairy farm near Mabton, in Washington state, sent her to Vern’s Moses Lake Meats. She was given a routine test for nervous-system diseases, killed, then shipped to Midway Meats in Centralia, also in Washington, for deboning. No one could have guessed she was about to be the cow who stole Christmas. The test, taken on December 9th but not fully analysed until December 22nd, froze America’s \$27-billion-a-year cattle industry, the world’s largest producer of beef. This Holstein had tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a fatal neuro-degenerative sickness popularly known as mad-cow disease and caused, it is thought, by rogue, mis-shapen proteins called prions.

Humans can get a variant of BSE by consuming the brains or nervous-system tissue of infected cattle. Britain diagnosed its first case of BSE in 1986. It eventually spread to 180,000 cattle and was linked to the deaths of nearly 150 people.

The USDA at once quarantined the Sunny Dene herd and made efforts to recall the meat. Two dozen countries equally swiftly slammed the door on American beef exports, which earn \$3 billion a year. The Asian market, particularly Japan, which buys about a third of those exports, was especially quick to ban American meat. Cattlemen cursed their bad luck after, at last, a year of decent prices.

Then, modest relief. On December 27th the USDA suggested that the infected cow came from Alberta, in Canada. This does not let the American beef industry off the hook. But it suggests—so far—that the cause of the trouble lies outside the United States. It was not such good news for Canada. Last May one case of BSE in northern Alberta led to a three-month ban on exports of Canadian beef and live cattle.

When will the cattlemen get their market back? The Americans hastily sent a team to Japan to try to calm Japanese fears and, more practically, to discuss the import of beef from animals less than 30 months old. Steve Kay, an expert on the cattle industry from

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tanked, but recovered when the burger giant insisted it used strict safety standards. Yet America's meat industry still plainly has to pay more attention to what it feeds its animals and how it kills them.

On the feeding side, giving cattle ruminant-derived products such as bone meal was banned in 1997, but blood and gelatin managed somehow to get exempted. In slaughterhouses, tighter rules are needed to govern both the removal of the brains, spinal cord and other bits capable of harbouring BSE, and grizzly new techniques for stripping edible tissues from carcasses. There is also pressure inevitably to tighten up rules about slaughtering downers.

It is hard to imagine that America has only one mad cow. Stanley Prusiner of the University of California, San Francisco, who won the 1997 Nobel Prize for medicine for his work on prions, has said that a real outbreak of BSE in America is "just a matter of time".

• This article appeared in the United States section of the print edition

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Luther S. Olsen

State Senator

14th District

TO: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism

FROM: Senator Luther Olsen

DATE: January 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 667.

Thank you Chairman Moulton and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism for holding a hearing and allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 667.

In 2004, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to require the registration of livestock premises. This was in response to the first known case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or Mad Cow Disease, in the United States. This case prompted state and federal governments to establish a plan to protect against an animal disease outbreak, which could cripple an important part of our food supply.

Current law establishes a livestock premises registration program that requires anyone who keeps, houses, or co-mingles livestock to register their premises. In the case of an animal disease outbreak, the livestock premises registration program allows the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to efficiently trace livestock movements, find where an infection originated, and identify what animals have been exposed.

Prior to cuts in 2011, Congress had provided roughly \$1 million per year in funding. Even with those cuts, the state of Wisconsin was statutorily required to maintain this program. Rather than DATCP absorbing those responsibilities, a public-private partnership was established with a non-profit livestock producer and industry organization called Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC).

Currently, WLIC program costs roughly \$350,000 per year and the state funds \$250,000 of that total. They have been using \$100,000 per year from their reserves, which are now exhausted. This bill appropriates \$100,000 in 2017-18 and \$100,000 in 2018-19 from GPR to cover that gap in order to give their new CEO, who specializes in fundraising, time to become established. It is our hope that they will be able to raise enough private money in order to cover that gap in the future.

Thank you, members. I ask for your support and would be more than happy to answer any questions.

January 9, 2018

To: Chairman Senator Terry Moulton and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism

From: Dr. Lynn V Schultz DVM

Re: Support for Senate Bill 667

I am writing this for your hearing in support of Senate 667, increased funding for the WLIC. I am a semi-retired Large Animal Livestock Veterinarian now working for the "Country Roads Veterinary Service" of Waterloo, WI 53594. My entire career as primarily a Bovine Practitioner has been to serve the needs of our producers, their livestock and ultimately the consumer. We need additional funding support for the WLIC as I understand it is not fully adequate at this time. WLIC premise identification for our livestock farmers not only limits and reduces the risk of spread of catastrophic farm animal diseases, but also protects our livestock product markets (domestic and international) through animal traceability. Domestic and foreign consumers are demanding the "pasture to plate" traceability of livestock food products in order to have confidence in the safety and quality of the food they serve their families. The WLIC functions in conjunction with the WDATCP as the base of support for this insurance.



1 South Pinckney Street, Suite 810, Madison, WI 53703-2869
608.258.4400 fax 608.258.4407
145 University Avenue West, Suite 450, St. Paul, MN 55103-2044
651.228.0213 fax 651.228.1184
www.cooperativenetwork.coop

January 9, 2018

To: Chairman Senator Terry Moulton and members of the Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism

From: David Ward, Director of Government Relations and Dairy

Re: Senate Bill 667

Thank you for the opportunity to register Cooperative Network's support for Senate Bill 667 (SB 667) relating to the administration of the livestock premises registration program.

In 2004, legislation was passed that made Wisconsin the first state in the nation to require anyone who keeps, houses, or co-mingles livestock to register their premises. The livestock industry at that time thought this information would be useful in the event of a disease outbreak, realizing such an event could cripple Wisconsin's \$88 billion agricultural industry. Two concerns were voiced in 2004. One was this would not cost producers any money to register their premises and second, this information would be not subject to any open records request. Money was appropriated and along with federal dollars, it has not cost livestock producers to register their premises. To deal with the second concern, the Wisconsin Livestock Consortium (WLIC) was chosen to register premises in Wisconsin. Fast forward to 2018 and the federal dollars have disappeared but we still have the need for the program and the need to keep the information private.

Wisconsin saw firsthand the value of premises registration and WLIC in 2015 when Avian Influenza was detected in poultry flocks in Wisconsin. To combat the disease in Wisconsin, DATCP estimates that it cost them \$330,000 in staff, supplies and travel costs. In Minnesota, the legislature appropriated \$3.62 million the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to combat Avian Influenza. One reason why Minnesota spent 10 times more than Wisconsin is DATCP knew the premises that had birds where as in Minnesota the MDA had to go and look for them.

WLIC has saved Wisconsin money over the years and has kept the information private which is what the Wisconsin Legislature had in mind in 2004.