



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Special Session Bill 7

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

February 11, 2020

Good morning Chairman Tauchen and committee members. Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Special Session Bill 7 that will award grants to dairy processing plants.

As the President of the Westby Cooperative Creamery Board I learned firsthand how dairy processors use dairy processing grants. These grants help smaller dairy processing facilities modernize the production of their dairy products. With the constant modernization of everything around us, it's important that we allow these small processing plants the opportunity to modernize their production. Not only do these processing grants allow dairy processors a way to modernize their production procedures, but they can also expand the ways they market the dairy products that they produce.

Assembly Special Session Bill 7 increases the funding for dairy processing grants each fiscal year by \$600,000. These grants are administered by the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Under Special Session Bill 7 DATCP must give priority to small dairy processing plants. Originally, under this bill "small" in relation to small dairy processing plants was not defined. I have offered Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Special Session Bill 7 that defines "small".

Under Assembly Amendment One "small" will be defined as a processing plant that produces no more than 50 million pounds of processed product each year. I had the opportunity to work with stakeholders to arrive at this definition of "small". The definition will allow priority in the application for these dairy processing grants to several of the small dairy processors in Wisconsin.

Thank you again for holding a hearing on Assembly Special Session Bill 7.