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*Testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions
State Senator André Jacque
January 29, 2020*

Chairman Marklein and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 684, relating to reciprocity for bulk milk weighing and sampling licenses.

The Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 was created in June 2018 as a joint effort between DATCP and the UW System to study the Wisconsin dairy industry with the goal of making recommendations on the actions that would be needed to maintain a viable and profitable dairy industry in Wisconsin. It was modeled after a similar effort in 1985.

A link to the Task Force's Final Report as well as a link to the original report from 1985 can be found at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/DairyTaskForce.aspx

One of the issues that the Task Force identified is that currently licensed Bulk Milk Weighers and Samplers need to have licenses in multiple states. This, according to the Task Force, imposes an unnecessary regulatory burden of paperwork on milk haulers moving product across multiple states.

The Dairy Task Force 2.0 recommended, by a vote of 25-0, allowing a person who is licensed by an agricultural agency of another state to take weights and samples of milk in bulk tanks. The proposal was put forward by the task force's regulatory certainty committee.

Senate Bill 684 is supported by Cooperative Network, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association and the Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 684.



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Representative Tranel's Prepared Testimony
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue & Financial Institutions
Senate Bills 685 and 684

January 29, 2020

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I would like to thank Chairman Marklein and the committee members for hearing Senate Bills 685 and 684 today. Both of these bills were created based on recommendations made by the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0. It's goal was to find common sense ways to improve profitably and viability within the dairy industry during these extremely challenging economic times. I would like to thank Senator Jacque for being the senate lead sponsor of both bills and everyone who signed on in support.

Senate Bill 685 removes the annual requirement for the rBST (synthetic bovine growth hormone) affidavit under Administrative Rule ATCP 83.02. Under current law dairy cooperatives' proprietary handlers and milk contractors must obtain a signed and notarized affidavit every 12 months or less from every producer shipping milk identified as rBST-free. Under this bill that would only have to be done one time. Most dairy cooperatives and processors in our state already require 100 percent rBST-free milk.

Passing this bill will help save dairy cooperatives and processors time and money by simplifying the record keeping obligations they currently need to maintain. This change also brings Wisconsin in-line with the reporting requirements in other states.

Senate Bill 684 provides reciprocity for bulk milk weighing and sampling licenses between states. This was another issue that the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 recommended addressing to help the states dairy industry.

Currently, licensed Bulk Milk Weighers and Samplers need to be licensed in multiple states. Eliminating this unnecessary regulatory hurdle will help reduce duplicative paper work for many milk haulers and help reduce shipping costs for farmer's products. The task force voted unanimously to recommend allowing a person who is licensed by an agricultural department of another state to take weights and samples of milk bulk tanks.

These two common sense bipartisan bills recommended by the Dairy 2.0 Task Force will help our states dairy industry become more competitive and sustainable moving forward. The bills are supported by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Cooperative Network and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association. Also, the Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association supports SB 684

Thank you again for hearing my testimony on Senate Bills 685 and 684, and I am happy to answer any questions.