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January 2020 Special Session Assembly Bill 6

Relating to: the Wisconsin Initiative for Dairy Exports and making an appropriation.

Public Hearing: Assembly Committee on Agriculture

February 11, 2020

Thank you, Chairman Tauchen, and thank you to my colleagues on the Assembly Committee on Agriculture for holding a public hearing on January 2020 Special Session Assembly Bill 6.

This bill is a part of the package of bills that Governor Evers put forth for his Special Session. While, I applaud the Governor for making exports a focus, I think we can do more, so I have authored Substitute Amendment 1, which puts the focus, on dairy, meat, and crops and increased the funding to a total of \$5 million. This amendment also includes an additional position for a specialist in the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) International Agribusiness Center. The amendment require DATCP and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to collaborate on agricultural exports. A report will be given to the legislature by 31-December-2020 and will include how WEDC and DATCP intend to achieve the export objectives. The \$5 million in funding must be submitted in DATCP and WEDC's 2021-23 budget request to the Governor for their respective Ag Export programs and positions.

I thank you for your time and for listening to my testimony.