

# State Legislators: Support agriculture request for discretionary funds

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**MADISON**— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and 35 other legislators sent a letter today to support agricultural industry requests for \$50 million in direct cash relief from the \$1.9 billion in discretionary funding provided to Governor Tony Evers in the Federal CARES Act.

The letter says:

“You recently received a memo from many organizations representing nearly every facet of agriculture in Wisconsin. These organizations have been working closely with your administration to support farmers and the agricultural industry throughout the COVID-19 response. They have been positively engaged, supportive and helpful.

However, we all recognize that agriculture has not received the same financial support and prioritization from the Federal CARES Act as other types of businesses. **This is why we strongly support the Ag-Industry’s request to provide Wisconsin farmers with \$50 million in direct cash relief from the \$1.9 billion in your discretionary funding from the CARES Act.**

As Governor, you have a very unique opportunity to dedicate these dollars however you see fit. We are asking you to prioritize agriculture and provide relief to the industry that is most in trouble right now.

As you know, agriculture has faced many years of lagging prices and hardships. Your own State of the State Address focused on agriculture and strategies to help farmers. At the beginning of 2020, we all felt like things were looking up. But then

the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

**The Federal CARES Act has given you \$1.9 billion to distribute however you want to do it.** We strongly encourage you to renew your commitment to agriculture and provide direct cash relief to our farmers and one of the most important supply chains in our state.”

The letter was signed by:

Sen. Howard Marklein 17 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	Rep. Rob Brooks 60 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Dave Murphy 56 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Gary Tauchen 6 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District
Sen. Kathy Bernier 23 <sup>rd</sup> Senate District	Rep. Barbara Dittrich 38 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Jeff Mursau 36 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt 52 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly District
Sen. Rob Cowles 2 <sup>nd</sup> Senate District	Rep. James Edming 8 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Todd Novak 51 <sup>st</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Travis Tranel 49 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District
Sen. Alberta Darling 8 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	Rep. Rick Gundrum 58 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Loren Oldenburg 96 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Ron Tusler 3 <sup>rd</sup> Assembly District
Sen. Andre Jacqu 1 <sup>st</sup> Senate District	Rep. Jesse James 68 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. John Plumer 42 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Nancy VanderMeer 70 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District
Sen. Devin LeMahieu 9 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	Rep. Bob Kulp 69 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Treig Pronschinske 92 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Shannon Zimmerman 30 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District
Sen. Luther Olsen 14 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	Rep. Tony Kurtz 50 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Timothy Ramthun 59 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	
Sen. Lena Taylor 4 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	Amy Loudenbeck 31 <sup>st</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Michael Schraa 53 <sup>rd</sup> Assembly District	
Sen. Tom Tiffany 12 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	Rep. John Macco 88 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. John Spiros 86 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	
Sen. Van Wanggaard 21 <sup>st</sup> Senate District	Rep. Gae Magnafici 28 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	Rep. Jim Steineke 5 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	