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Republican Pettiness Threatens Family Farmers

LA CROSSE, WI – As communities across Wisconsin continue to grapple with the economic chaos caused by President Trump unfair tariffs, farmers were dealt another blow as Republican leaders announced their intention to reject Gov. Evers’ appointment of Brad Pfaff as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). In response, Senator Shilling released the following statement:

“With his extensive knowledge in agriculture policy and management, Brad has been a tireless advocate and ally for Wisconsin farmers. At a time when Wisconsin is losing dairy farms daily and suicide rates for farmers are rising, it is unacceptable and callous for Republicans to obstruct the appointment of Secretary Pfaff. Once again, Republicans are playing petty political games rather than doing what is right for Wisconsin families and local farms.”

Since his nomination in December of 2018, Secretary-designee Pfaff has been an outspoken advocate for farmers by urging action on mental health assistance, rural broadband access, and sustainable land management practices. Through his work for the U.S Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, Pfaff has been a trusted and credible partner of farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Wisconsin lost nearly 700 dairy farms last year as President Trump escalated his reckless trade war. In 2018, Wisconsin led the nation in farm bankruptcies.

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