

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dairy Business Association endorses legislative candidates in Milwaukee area

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin’s leading dairy lobbying group, is endorsing candidates in several state legislative races in the Milwaukee area.

DBA based its endorsement decisions on candidates’ positions on agricultural issues and, where available, their past voting records on bills supported by the association, which advocates for the state’s dairy farmers and allied businesses.

DBA endorsed the following state senators in their bids for reelection: Sen. Lena Taylor, D-Milwaukee, in the 4th District; Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills, in the 8th District; and Sen. Duey Stroebel, R-Saukville, in the 20th District.

The association is also pleased to support candidates for nine state Assembly seats in southeastern Wisconsin. Those candidates: Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, D-Milwaukee, in the 8th District; Rep. Amy Loudenberg, R-Clinton, in the 31st District; Rep. Tyler August, R-Lake Geneva, in 32nd District; Rep. Cody Horlacher, R-Mukwonago, in the 33rd District; Rep. Timothy Ramthun, R-Campbellsport, in the 59th District; Rep. Robert Brooks, R-Saukville, in the 60th District; Rep. Samantha Kerkman, R-Salem, in the 61st District; Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, in the 63rd District; and Rep. Ken Skowronski, R-Franklin, in the 82nd District.



“Dairy plays such an important role in the state’s economy. In the Milwaukee region, its impact is sometimes harder to see, but it’s still there,” said Tom Crave, DBA’s president and also a partner in his family’s dairy farm and cheese plant in Waterloo, Wis. “In addition to some of the remaining farms in the area, many other businesses provide supplies and services to farms, processors and other agricultural businesses.”

To sustain and grow Wisconsin’s role in the global dairy industry, the state needs to invest in the future, Crave said. In the last budget, the Legislature passed funding for the Dairy Innovation Hub, which funds the next generation of dairy research at three University of Wisconsin campuses.

“Support for this funding, especially by lawmakers on the Joint Finance Committee like Senator Darling, Senator Stroebel and Representative Loudenberg, will help to sustain dairy farming and processing in Wisconsin for many years to come,” Crave said.

John Holevoet, DBA's director of government affairs, said politics often draws people of differing backgrounds together. For example, he said, many of the workers on Wisconsin dairy farms are immigrants from Latin America.

"We are committed to advocating for issues important to our workers, and that means we often find partners on these issues from urban districts that also have a large immigrant population," Holevoet said.

For many years, DBA has worked with Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee, on such issues, including working for a driver's permit for non-citizens.

"We're hopeful that we can continue this work with Ms. Ortiz-Velez, who is running to replace Representative Zamarripa in the state Assembly," Holevoet said.

Photos:

[Click here](#) for a photo of Tom Crave

Logo:

[Click here](#) for DBA's logo

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About DBA:

The Dairy Business Association is Wisconsin's leading dairy lobbying group, championing smart and sensible regulations affecting the dairy community. The nonprofit organization is comprised of farmers, milk processors, vendors and other business partners who work collaboratively to ensure that dairy farms of all sizes have the support they need to keep America's Dairyland strong. More information: www.dairyforward.com

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