



Tuesday, October 24th, 2023

Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

Re: Senate Bill 431 Relating to: permits for the overweight transport of certain fluid milk products.

Michelle Ramirez-White – Policy Coordinator, Wisconsin Farmers Union

Chair Tomczyk and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 431.

Wisconsin Farmers Union's grassroots, member-driven policy reads:

“Milk is a perishable product. Smaller farmers living in clustered areas may be impacted further, as all may not be able to attain milk pick up due to the travel expense of the truck. Dairy farmers, already on a perilous financial edge, would be out of business if this brief county ordinance were to be enforced. This is a product that relies on every other day pickup due to state ordinances and has a short shelf life.”

Wisconsin Farmers Union supports Senate Bill 431, adding liquid milk byproducts, including whey, to the list of dairy that may be transported at higher weight limits. Whey is an important dairy product used in the cheese-making process, and could be further processed into protein powder and other value-added dairy ingredients.

It is key to allow our processors in Wisconsin to safely haul fuller tanks of milk, and milk-by products, to reduce trips and miles these trucks must be on roads, and address labor-shortages in this industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to share Wisconsin Farmers Union's thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ramirez-White

Policy Coordinator, Wisconsin Farmers Union

Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driver organization that is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities and all people through education, cooperation, and legislation. Learn more at <https://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/>