



The following Special Order of Business was passed by delegates to the 82nd Annual Wisconsin Farmers Union Convention on January 25-27, 2013 in Eau Claire:

Special Order of Business – 2013

FRAC SAND MINING IN WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the expansion of industrial scale sand mining and processing raises significant economic, environmental, and quality of life issues, including water and air quality, quantity of ground water use, road and highway impacts and costs, reclamation plans, property values for adjacent landowners, and mining and plant operating procedures.

WHEREAS, the economic, environmental, and quality of life impacts of these operations are primarily issues of local concern.

WHEREAS, independent and reliable information about these matters is essential for local citizens and officials to make sound decisions on matters related to sand mining.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Wisconsin Farmers Union supports local control of frac sand mining, and does not support state regulation that would preempt the ability of towns and counties to craft their own regulations tailored to their individual circumstances.

Wisconsin Farmers Union supports efforts by local governments to effectively evaluate and manage the development of these industrial sand mining and processing operations.

WFU encourages communities to consider the use of zoning as a planning tool for addressing this issue, along with negotiation of development agreements between local governments and the mining, processing and transportation businesses involved.

WFU strongly urges the development of adequate regulatory and monitoring capacity within appropriate state agencies to assure that accurate and timely information is available, and that transparent regulatory compliance is assured.

WFU encourages towns and counties to accurately account for the income-generating capacity of this potential mine, and to establish fees, property tax provisions, or impact assessments to ensure that the economic benefits of frac sand operations are shared by all of the local residents that are negatively affected by mining operations.

WFU encourages local governments to require robust reclamation plans and bonding sufficient to cover the costs of returning land to a pre-mined state.

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