



August 31, 2017

Dear members of the Legislature and Legislative Joint Finance Committee:

Wisconsin Farmers Union writes to express our strong opposition to any action that would result in **wholesale preemption of local government authority over quarries, frac sand, or mining in general** in the state budget.

Local governments play a critical role in balancing the interests of industry with the health, safety, and welfare of citizens in their local communities. Moreover, town and county governments are the stewards of local public infrastructure. Municipal governments must have the ability to protect decades of taxpayer investments in roads and bridges from over-use, and keep the roads functioning for years to come.

During the budget deliberation process, frac sand and other industry groups have sought to completely eliminate the ability of local government to regulate air, water, blasting, or other mining-related impacts. Wisconsin Farmers Union opposes these efforts. Instead, we urge the following:

1) Any efforts to alter local government authority over frac sand and aggregate mining should be advanced as stand-alone legislation, not tacked on to the state budget.

2) Local governments must retain the core ability to protect health, safety, welfare, roads, and property values.

Attached please find the Special Order of Business adopted by delegates to Wisconsin Farmers Union's annual convention in 2013, which remains WFU's position on frac sand mining and local control to this day. The farmers and rural residents who are facing the impacts of the sand mining industry most directly emphasize the importance of local control in balancing the benefits and impacts of frac sand mining in their own local communities.

Please do not allow preemption of local government control over mining to be included in the state budget.

Sincerely,

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