

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Laurie Fischer  
Executive Director  
920-366-1880**Immigrant Labor Driver Cards to be Included in State Budget***DBA Applauds Efforts of Representative Pedro Colon*

Green Bay, Wis. – Last week, the Wisconsin Legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance voted 12-4 on a budget motion to issue a limited purpose two-year “driver card” to an applicant who meets all requirements but is unable to demonstrate a legal presence in the United States. “This effort will assure that all immigrant workers have passed a driver’s license test, understand the rules of the road, be able to acquire auto insurance and be identifiable to law enforcement,” said Laurie Fischer, Executive Director of the Dairy Business Association (DBA). “Farmers all across the state find it difficult to hire local laborers to apply for jobs they advertise in local papers. In many cases, immigrant laborers are the only people who apply for and are willing to do farm work. Farmers need to be assured that those who apply for these jobs, that often require driving farm vehicles, have the same level of driving skills and ability to be insurable as resident drivers of the state,” Fischer continued.

Representative Pedro Colon, a member of the Finance Committee, authored the motion which will allow immigrant laborers working on farms and other jobs throughout the state to obtain a driver card, not a license, so they are qualified to legally and safely operate farm vehicles and equipment that are used in their jobs.

“Representative Colon is to be commended for having crafted language that reached a difficult compromise,” said Fischer. The motion insures these drivers have evidence showing they are qualified to operate vehicles, have paid the same fees and taken the same tests as other drivers. The card will not be acceptable as any form of identification. The card will clearly state on its face in bold lettering, as well as in the card's machine readable zone, that it may not be accepted by any federal agency for federal identification or other official purpose.

To obtain the driver card, the applicant must show Wisconsin residency for at least six months prior, pass driving skills, knowledge and eyesight examinations, as well as meet current age requirements. The applicant must also provide proof of identity that includes providing a valid Federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The motion stipulates that the driver card does not make the applicant eligible to receive a Social Security Number. According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the motion is revenue-neutral. It is expected that the costs to administer this program will be offset by collection of driver cards and associated instructional permit fees, as well as driving skills test fees from new applicants.

This budget motion will also need to pass in the Senate and Assembly before adoption. Both houses will be voting on the Governor’s 2009-11 Executive Budget in June.

**About DBA**

The Dairy Business Association is an industry organization comprised of dairy producers, corporate and allied industry supporters. DBA promotes the growth and success of all dairy farms in Wisconsin by fostering a positive business and political environment. For more information about DBA, please visit our website at [www.widba.com](http://www.widba.com).

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