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COWS IN WISCONSIN™**

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DBA ANNOUNCES ENDORSEMENTS FOR STATE SENATE, ASSEMBLY CANIDATES SUPPORT PRO-GROWTH DAIRY POLICIES

Oneida - Wisconsin's general elections are a little more than a week away, and the Dairy Business Association is pleased to endorse 11 state Senate candidates and more than 30 state Assembly candidates who support a pro-dairy environment for our state.

"We are endorsing bi-partisan candidates who have demonstrated their support for Wisconsin's number one industry by their voting record or background," said DBA's Executive Director Laurie Fischer. "At a time when our nation and the world are facing significant financial turmoil, Wisconsin is fortunate to have agriculture as its fiscal foundation. Dairy and other farming related businesses provide 420,000 local jobs and \$51 billion dollars of revenue to our state and local economies."

DBA officially endorses the following candidates for the state Senate:

Rob Cowles (R-De Pere) has been a supporter of pro-growth economic policies that benefit the state's dairy industry.

Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) is a member of the Joint Finance Committee and has fought for agriculture interests in the biennial budget process.

Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) has first-hand knowledge of our state's dairy industry that comes from growing up on a dairy farm herself. She has worked closely with DBA on many issues during her eight years in office.

Luther Olsen (R-Berlin) has worked tirelessly on behalf of the state's agriculture industry through the biennial budget process. His family owns an agricultural supply store in the district.

Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) has supported tax policy issues that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry and values agriculture's contribution to the state's economy.

Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) has recognized the dairy and agriculture industries by supporting beneficial tax policy.

Dan Kapanke (R-La Crosse) is an agricultural seed salesman and owns two businesses in the La Crosse area. A former long-time chair of the Town of Campbell, he supports modernizing the state's dairy and dairy processing sectors.

Randy Hopper (R-Fond du Lac) is running for the 18th Senate District seat vacated by Sen. Carol Roessler. Mr. Hopper is a small businessman in the region and has made economic development, particularly agriculture, one of his campaign's cornerstones.

Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) is the vice chair of the Joint Finance Committee where he has consistently fought for agriculture interests in the biennial budget process.

Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point) is a current member of the powerful Joint Finance Committee where she has developed a good record of support for agriculture interests.

Jim Holperin (D-Eagle River) is running for the open 12th Senate District seat that is being vacated by Sen. Roger Breske (D-Eland). Mr. Holperin is a former state representative and Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. He has focused on economic development for all sectors of our state's economy in his campaign.

DBA also endorses the following candidates for the state Assembly:

Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) has always been an ally to the state's dairy industry by advocating for a pro-growth economic policy.

Jeff Fitzgerald (R-Horicon) has served the state's dairy industry well by advocating for a pro-growth economic policy.

Kitty Rhoades (R-Hudson) serves as the Co-Chair of the Joint Finance Committee. She has fought for the state's dairy industry by pushing for tax and regulatory policies that allow the industry to grow.

Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) grew up on a family dairy farm and supports dairy farm issues and has advocated for the modernization of the state's dairy processing sector.

Steve Kestell (R-Elkhart Lake) is a former dairy farmer with personal knowledge of our state's dairy industry. He has been DBA's ally through his work on many issues important to our members.

Al Ott (R-Forest Junction) serves as the Assembly Agriculture Committee's chair. His dairy experience as a former farmer has proven to be a vital asset on many issues impacting the state's dairy industry.

Lee Nerison (R-Viroqua) has helped protect and promote the state's agricultural industry by advocating for production livestock in his district. As a former dairy farmer, he has a deep understanding of Wisconsin's dairy industry.

Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel) is actively involved in his family's dairy farm, which keeps him abreast of the current issues facing the dairy industry. He has been a strong fighter for the growth and expansion of the state's dairy industry.

Mary Williams (R-Medford) has supported pro-growth and land use policies that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry. Rep. Williams' experience as a small business owner lends to her understanding of dairy farms as agriculture businesses.

John Murtha (R-Baldwin) has supported pro-growth and land use policies that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry. He is a small business owner and a current member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) is a current member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee. He has supported pro-growth and land use policies that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry. He is also a small business owner.

Jerry Petrowski (R-Stettin) has been a strong proponent of the state's dairy industry and has fought on its behalf in the state legislature. He is a former dairy farmer with in-depth knowledge of our state's dairy industry.

Don Friske (R-Merrill) is the longtime chairman of the Assembly Forestry Committee. He has a track record of benefiting the state's dairy industry by supporting land use and pro-growth policies.

Dan Meyer (R-Eagle River) is a current member of the legislature's powerful Joint Finance Committee. This former town mayor has also supported pro-growth and land use policies.

Frank Lasee (R-Green Bay) has supported tax policy issues that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry and values agriculture's contribution to the state's economy. He is also a small business owner.

Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) has supported tax and regulatory policies issues that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry and values agriculture's contribution to the state's economy.

Gary Bies (R-Sister Bay) has supported tax policy issues that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry and values agriculture's contribution to the state's economy.

Doc Hines (R-Oxford) has supported pro-growth and land use policies that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry. He also has first hand knowledge of the state's dairy industry through his years of work as a veterinarian.

Phil Montgomery (R-Green Bay) has supported tax and regulatory policies issues that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry and values agriculture's contribution to the state's economy.

Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca) has supported pro-growth and land use policies that have been beneficial to the state's dairy industry.

Ed Brooks (R-Reedsburg) is running for the open 50th Assembly District seat that is being vacated by Rep. Sheryl Albers (R-Reedsburg). Mr. Brooks is a dairy farmer and is the board president of Foremost Farms USA.

Keith Ripp (R-Lodi), a farmer, is running for the open 47th Assembly District seat that is being vacated by Rep. Gene Hahn (R-Cambria). He is a leader in several state-wide agricultural organizations.

Debi Towns (R-Janesville) held the 43rd Assembly District seat from 2002 to 2006. She lost by fewer than 50 votes in 2006 to Rep. Kim Hixson (D-Whitewater). Ms. Towns is a dairy farmer and worked hard on important agriculture issues during her tenure in the legislature.

Nathan Russell (R-Sauk City) is challenging Rep. Steve Hilgenberg in the 51st Assembly District. He is an agricultural lender and father of three young children. He and his wife both grew up on family farms in Wisconsin and have been involved in agriculture their entire lives.

Richard “Dick” Spanbauer (R-Oshkosh) is running for the open 53rd Assembly District seat that is being vacated by Rep. Carol Owens (R-Oshkosh). He is chairman of the Town of Algoma in Winnebago County, which gives him first-hand knowledge of the importance of economic development in rural Wisconsin.

Mike Sheridan (D-Janesville) was first elected in 2004 and is a current member of the Assembly’s Labor Committee. His former role as the president of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 95 in Janesville helps him to understand the importance of growing jobs and modernizing our state’s industries.

Amy Sue Vruwink (D-Milladore) is a current member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee. She has worked closely with DBA on important agriculture issues and modernizing the state’s dairy processing sector. Rep. Vruwink grew up on a family dairy farm, and she understands the state’s dairy industry and its economic value.

Andy Jorgensen (D-Fort Atkinson) is a current member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee where he has fought for expanding the state’s dairy and biofuels industry. Rep. Jorgensen grew up on a family dairy farm and understands the importance of agriculture jobs to the state’s economy.

Tom Nelson (D-Kaukauna) is a current member of the Assembly Rural Economic Development Committee. Rep. Nelson represents one of the fastest growing dairy areas in the state and has visited with dairy producers on issues that concern them.

Louis Molepske (D-Stevens Point) is a current member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee where he has been supportive of pro-growth agriculture policies. Rep. Molepske is a former attorney for the City of Stevens Point.

Mary Hubler (D-Rice Lake) is a current member of the Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy. She is very supportive of land use policies and understands the need for alternative energy resources such as manure digesters.

Donna Seidel (D-Wausau) is the former clerk of courts in Marathon County. She was first elected in 2004 and enjoys a great working relationship with members on both sides of the aisle. Rep. Seidel is a current member of the Assembly Health Committee where she has focused on expanding Badger Care to families in need.

Ann Hraychuck (D-Balsam Lake) is a current member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. She was first elected in 2006 and is a pro-growth legislator who supports economic development opportunities in rural Wisconsin. Before being elected, she worked as the Polk County sheriff.

Chris Danou (D-Trempeleau) is running for the open 91st Assembly District being vacated by Rep. Barbara “Bobby” Gronemus (D-Whitehall). Mr. Danou is a police officer in Onalaska, but he has promised, like Rep. Gronemus, to make agriculture one of his main priorities if elected.

Brett Davis (R-Oregon) has been a strong leader in the state Capitol fighting for our state’s dairy industry, especially the dairy processing sector. He is Chairman of the Assembly Education Committee where he has fought hard for funding for our state’s rural schools.

Dan LeMahieu (R-Ootsburg) has supported tax and regulatory policy issues that have been beneficial to the state’s dairy industry. He values agriculture’s contribution to the state’s economy.

Marlin Schneider (D-Wisconsin Rapids) has always been supportive of pro-growth agriculture policies that have benefited the state's dairy industry. He is the longest-serving member of the state Assembly.

Bob Ziegelbauer (D-Manitowoc) has supported the state's dairy industry by working on tax and regulatory policy issues. He also serves as the county executive for Manitowoc County.

"It is essential that the elected officials responsible for establishing the state's vision and policies have a deep understanding of the vital role that the dairy industry plays in the state's economy and workforce," Fischer said. "We have confidence in the candidates we have endorsed, and we encourage all people who are involved in the dairy industry to play an active role in supporting these candidates by voting on Election Day."

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.

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