



DAIRY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION | DAIRY FORWARD

February 21, 2025

To: Dane County Board of Adjustment

Re: Administrative Appeal by Maier Farms Real Estate LLC regarding Zoning Administrator's Determination on Wetland Use Violation at 7119 Schumacher Rd, Town of Verona

Dear Members of the Dane County Board of Adjustment,

I am writing on behalf of the Dairy Business Association to express our support for Maier Farms Real Estate, LLC in their ongoing dispute with Dane County regarding the installation of a drainage system located in the NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 21 on their property.

The Dairy Business Association strongly advocates for the rights of farmers to manage their land in accordance with state and federal regulations, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices. Documentation provided by Maier Farms indicates that the property in question has been classified as "Prior-Converted Cropland / Non-Wetland" by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and has received a nonfederal wetland exemption from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Additionally, Wis. Stat. §281.36(12m) expressly prohibits local government ordinances from regulating discharge permits for nonfederal or artificial wetlands enacted before March 30, 2018. Therefore, any regulations under Dane County Ordinance Chapter 11 that conflict with this statute are legally untenable.

Maier Farms has diligently complied with state regulations, including adjusting the location of their drainage system pump as per WDNR recommendations. The Dairy Business Association urges Dane County to recognize Maier Farms' compliance with applicable laws and to cease enforcement actions that are inconsistent with state statutes.

As advocates for Wisconsin dairy farmers, we encourage Dane County to find a solution that aligns with state law and recognizes the agricultural significance of the land in question. We support Maier Farms' request for a resolution that enables them to maintain their drainage system, ensuring their farm remains productive without undue regulatory obstacles.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.
We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Zuleger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chad" and last name "Zuleger" clearly distinguishable.

Chad Zuleger
Director of Government Affairs
Dairy Business Association