



## IMAGINE WISCONSIN WITHOUT THIS FARM....

Agriculture is a \$59 billion industry in Wisconsin, and most of that industry is based on family farms. The importance of Wisconsin small farms and farmers to our lives and our economy can't be overestimated.

But Scott Walker doesn't really care about that. And Scott Walker's Budget Bill could destroy the family farm.

- **Health Care Concerns.** Approximately 11,000, or one in seven farming families, rely on health care coverage through BadgerCare. But Walker's Bill now allows him to control access to BadgerCare as he sees fit. (He's already removed eligibility for 9% of Wisconsinites by reducing eligibility from the current federal standard.) Without affordable health care, farmers simply can't afford to farm.
- **Quality of Education.** Walker's drastic cuts in funding for education have hurt schools all across the state. And among those hardest hit are those in rural areas. Whereas schools near cities or in wealthier districts can consolidate to face the coming budget shortfalls, those in rural areas with fewer teachers and services face a near impossible challenge of trying



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to consolidate without cutting the quality of education provided to each child.

- ***Insecurity about Protection for Farmland.*** Although his own party finally prevailed on him to back off, Walker pushed hard for months to 1) abolish the conversion fee when land is changed from agricultural zoning to commercial or residential and thus make it easier to persuade land owners to sell and 2) eliminate 2011 & 2012 funding for PACE, a program that since its start has assisted nonprofits in purchasing conservation easements from small farmers and stemmed the 30,000 acre loss of farmland per year. If he tries and succeeds to push these plans through again, Wisconsin farmland will be in serious jeopardy.
- ***Loss of Important Financial Supports.*** There are over 220 credit unions in Wisconsin, many of which are headquartered or have branches in rural areas and farming communities. Because these communities are often under-served by banks, credit unions are hugely important to small farmers. The Joint Finance Committee recently passed a measure that makes it easier to convert credit unions to banks. This final blow would effectively eliminate the last financial safety net for the Wisconsin family farm.

We can't let Scott Walker destroy Wisconsin's farms. We need to stop him now.

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