

A resolution supporting the drafting of a La Crosse County Purchase of Development Rights Program to preserve farmland.

Resolution No. _____

_____ of _____, La Crosse County, Wisconsin
(City, Village, Town)

Whereas, agriculture and farmland are important to our community by generating economic revenue, providing important environmental benefits, maintaining our rural character and open spaces, and by contributing to our quality of life; and

Whereas, agricultural land continues to be converted to other uses as the population moves out into the more rural agricultural areas of our community; and

Whereas, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors is in the process of developing a farmland preservation program designed specifically for this county; and

Whereas, the County may qualify to receive matching funds from State and Federal programs for farmland preservation; and

Whereas, according to the County Farmland Preservation Program Draft, (1) individual municipalities must first pass a resolution authorizing landowner participation, (2) each landowner application must also be approved by the municipality to be considered by the County, and (3) protection of farmland must be consistent with adopted comprehensive land use plans in order to avoid preserving land better suited for commercial, industrial or high-density residential development; and

Whereas, the County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Draft offers a *voluntary* option for owners of farmland outside of planned urban growth areas that are interested in protecting their farmland by participating in the purchase of development rights program;

Therefore be it resolved that the governing body of _____ supports the efforts of the La Crosse County Board to establish and fund an active farmland preservation program in La Crosse County and encourages landowners who own land that should be preserved to apply to this program.

Signature

Approved by the _____ on _____, 2007.