

## Wisconsin Farmers Union Special Orders of Business— 2019

### CONCENTRATION IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

**WHEREAS**, deregulation of industries has been a commonplace occurrence over the past 4 decades which has rolled back many of the protections to independent agricultural interests and farmers that were established to foster competition and a healthy marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, enforcement of federal anti-trust laws has diminished over the past few decades, with very few meaningful investigations into mergers and acquisitions of large scale agricultural producers, suppliers and processors;

**WHEREAS**, a decline in the vitality of rural communities has coincided with this concentration in agricultural and retail food markets with family farms bearing brunt of this injustice:

**AND WHEREAS**, the movement towards fewer bigger suppliers of Ag inputs and markets for farm products has been accelerating in the past decade:

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that WFU strongly demands that the WI DOJ and US DOJ, as well as other regulatory agencies, aggressively investigate this situation and initiate action to level the playing field for family farmers and return meaningful competition to the marketplace

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WFU calls on the WI DOJ and US DOJ to follow through on the antitrust investigation and to aggressively prosecute violators of antitrust laws;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WFU urges the federal government to increase its oversight of consolidation and vertical integration in the agriculture industry and to establish a constant dialog within agriculture about market control and antitrust concerns.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Wisconsin Farmers Union opposes the investment in arable lands in all countries by institutional investors (corporations, commercial and investment banks, pension funds, life insurance companies, endowments, high net-worth individuals, sovereign wealth funds, all of which apply to both domestic and foreign entities, amongst others). These lands should primarily be owned, managed, and farmed, if so desired, by domestic family farmers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Wisconsin Farmers Union urges DATCP to vigorously enforce the law limiting ownership by foreign entities to 640 acres of land in Wisconsin.