Al Ott
State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

AB 657
World Dairy Center Authority Repeal
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
January 10, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 657 (AB 657), relating to the repeal of the statutory reference to the World Dairy Center Authority.

1991 Wisconsin Act 16 – under Chapter 235 of the statutes – created the World Dairy Center Authority to establish a Wisconsin center for the national and international dairy industry.

As I understand the history of this issue, when the current Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection building was being constructed, the owner of the land envisioned creating a larger "World Dairy Center" on the surrounding land. He hoped to attract major dairy and agricultural businesses, breed associations, trade associations, etc. The World Dairy Center Authority was created as part of that development effort.

Unfortunately, the land owner was not able to get commitments from some of the key players he had hoped to attract, bringing the development concept to a halt, and minimizing the need for a World Dairy Center Authority.

The World Dairy Center Authority has not been active in any way for many years. In the past, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has proposed that the Revisor of Statutes repeal the Authority. The Revisor's office, however, never agreed to introduce language to repeal the Authority.

When I inquired about repealing these statutes last summer, former World Dairy Expo General Manager Tom McKittrick, said the World Dairy Center Authority was, "a great idea that never became a reality." Mr. McKittrick expressed no reservation regarding the deletion of this statutory language.

The repeal of Chapter 235 and other statutory language referencing the World Dairy Center Authority is not expected to have any negative implications for the World Dairy Expo event held annually in Madison.

Repealing this language would simply remove an outdated section of the statutes, and eliminate the statutory requirement that the Governor and leadership in the Assembly and Senate make appointments to the Authority.

As a final note, the provisions of AB 657 were included in the Assembly version of the state budget, but were removed during conference committee deliberations.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to take questions from the committee at this time.

Office: P.O. Box 8953 • Madison, WI 53708 • (608) 266-5831 • Toll-Free: (888) 534-0003 • Rep.Ott@legis.wi.gov
Home: P.O. Box 112 • Forest Junction, WI 54123-0112 • (920) 989-1240