



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 163

Relating to: membership of the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council in the Department of Workforce Development

Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs

August 29th, 2023

Good morning Chairman Testin and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 163.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council's main function is to:

1. Increase the hiring and retention of qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
2. Promote the coordination of educational systems to develop employees for current and future careers in agricultural fields
3. Develop support mechanisms for employment in these fields
4. Recommend policy that can improve the educational development of agricultural education

In addition, the Council provides advice and assistance to state agencies, educational institutions, and the Wisconsin Legislature on matters related to agricultural education and workforce development. Council membership includes state agency leaders from DWD, DACTP, DPI, WEDC, DNR, UW-System, WTCS, and the UW-Madison Extension.

Changes to UW-System's restructuring in June of 2018 created an inconsistency in member titles on this council. Senate Bill 163 provides a simple remedy for council membership; changing the Chancellor of the UW-Extension seat to the Dean of the UW-Madison division of extension. The Chancellor of the UW Extension's new title is the Dean of the UW-Madison division of extension.

This change would put WAEWD council members in line with the positions reflecting the UW-system restructuring without changing council membership. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 163.



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

August 29, 2023

**Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and
Military Affairs
Testimony on Senate Bill 163**

Good morning!

Thank you Chair Testin and committee members for hearing Senate Bill 163 (SB 163), that updates the statute regarding the Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (WAEWDC).

SB 163 is not changing the membership of the WAEWDC, rather it is updating the statute to reflect the change in title for one of the current members.

The University of Wisconsin Extension became the University of Wisconsin-Madison division of extension after the restructuring approved by the Higher Learning Commission in June 2018.

The WAEWDC is to make recommendations in its Annual Report, including those related to the Council's structure.

Wis. Stats. s. 15.227(15)(a)7 describes the membership on the council for Extension and reads:

The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Extension or his or her designee. After the restructuring that individual's title is the dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison division of extension.

Given the structure change at Extension, SB 163 would update the WAEWDC statute to reflect the current organizational structure.

Thank you again for hearing SB 163 and your timely action on the bill.