



DATE: May 13, 2019

TO: Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

FROM: Wisconsin Agriculture

RE: University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine Building Expansion

Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature:

As a coalition of Wisconsin agricultural related businesses, associations, and producers, we endorse the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine's (SVM) proposed expansion project and urge you to include it in the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget.

The SVM serves Wisconsin's animal and production industries in a variety of ways. Not surprisingly, their food animal production medicine program is internationally recognized as a leader. In addition to offering a top-ranked program for students interested in a career in dairy medicine, their program also has numerous research programs focused on health and welfare problems facing the dairy industry. Examples include lameness, air hygiene and respiratory health, heat stress and feeding behavior, facility design, and transition cow behavior and metabolic requirements, and food safety.

The school is also a leader in infectious disease research and plays a critical role in developing new insights into the treatment, prevention, and control of diseases that pose critical threats to the state's agricultural industries. Examples include Johne's disease, hemorrhagic bowel syndrome, bovine tuberculosis, and bovine respiratory disease.

We are all committed to the strength and vitality of Wisconsin's agricultural industry. The UW School of Veterinary Medicine is a valuable partner in that effort and needs to expand their facilities to continue their important work. Their planned expansion will have a positive impact on the state of Wisconsin and we strongly urge you to include it in the state budget.

Any questions on the building project can be directed to UW-Madison Director of State Relations, Crystal Potts (crystal.potts@wisc.edu; 608-265-4105).