

2025-26 Fall Legislative Priorities



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Agri-Business Association

Weight Permit System Initiative

WABA is collaborating with the Department of Transportation to establish a permit system modeled after the recently enacted Overweight Dairy Product Hauling Permits (Act 158). This initiative aims to enable the transportation of agricultural commodities, including grain and feedstuffs, using six-axle trucks. Permits allowing 91,000 pounds on six-axle trucks on Wisconsin state roads would reduce CO2 emissions, improve efficiency, and minimize roadway impact.

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification

Several surrounding states have altered their recertification process for commercial pesticide applicators to model other industries. Transitioning custom applicators from retesting to continuing education units (CEUs) strengthens both compliance and workforce stability. CEUs ensure applicators receive ongoing, practical training on safety, technology, and regulations—providing more meaningful oversight than a periodic exam. This model reduces barriers that discourage experienced workers, helping address workforce shortages while still maintaining high standards. By prioritizing continuous learning, CEUs improve applicator performance while protecting the industry's workforce.

Commercial Fertilizer Building Exemption

WABA supports creating an exemption for commercial agricultural buildings, specifically fertilizer and chemical buildings, from being required to have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed. Sprinkler systems placed in fertilizer and chemical buildings create a safety hazard as water can react violently with certain chemicals, potentially causing explosions, releasing toxic gases, or spreading the fire. WABA supports this exemption for the safety and well being of the environment.

Tax Credit for Shortline Rail Infrastructure Modernization

Senate Bill 213 (Assembly Bill 219) would create an income and franchise tax credit for railroads that make rail infrastructure and railroad maintenance expenditures. Under the bill, a claimant that is classified by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board as a class II or class III railroad may claim a rail infrastructure modernization credit. Each year, approximately 1.6 million metric tons of grain are transported by rail in Wisconsin. For this reason, WABA supports this bill, which will improve railway efficiency and help agricultural businesses move their products more effectively.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit

Senate Bill 284 (Assembly Bill 222) is aimed at creating an income and franchise tax credit for the production of sustainable aviation fuel, defined as aviation fuel with at least 90 percent derived from synthetic, renewable, and nonpetroleum sources. This investment not only advances clean energy but also provides new market opportunities for ethanol producers and supports Wisconsin's agricultural industry, which supplies the feedstocks that make sustainable aviation fuel possible. For these reasons, WABA supports this legislation.



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