

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 3, 2019

Contact: Senator Janis Ringhand 608-266-2253

## **Weekly Democratic Radio Address: Wisconsin Family Farms Need Our Support**

MADISON, WI – Senator Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) offered the Democratic weekly radio address in response to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary’s remarks on family farms and small agricultural businesses.

The audio file of this week’s address can be found here:

<https://sen-dem.cms.legis.wisconsin.gov/media/1309/senator-ringhand-radio-address-wisconsin-family-farms-need-our-support.mp3>

A written transcript of the address is below:

*“Hello, I’m Senator Janis Ringhand with this week’s radio address.*

*“In Wisconsin, family farmers are the backbone of our economy. That’s why it was incredibly disappointing to hear U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, one of the largest corporate farmers in America, call struggling family farmers ‘whiners’ and suggest that Wisconsin farmers go out of business unless they adopt the corporate farm model.*

*“It is no secret that our family farms across the state are struggling. And the policies of Secretary Perdue and the current administration only make things more difficult for farmers in Wisconsin. According to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection our state has already lost 551 dairy farms in this year alone.*

*“When family farms are lost, it creates a rippling effect throughout Wisconsin. As a member of the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0, most of our recommendations were geared toward helping families stay on the farm and give a much needed boost to our dairy industry.*

*“Unfortunately for family farmers in Wisconsin, Republicans have not acted on all the recommendations made by the task force. As lawmakers, we have an obligation to find solutions to help family farms thrive. Instead of sending the message to small farmers to go big or get out of farming, we should be doing all we can to ensure that our farming community is as strong as possible.”*

###