Resolution No. 6-0409

Opposing Assembly Bill 75 relating to
Changes to the Farmland Preservation Program

Whereas, Iowa County has participated in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program since its inception;

Whereas, the authorizing statute, Chapter 91 Wisconsin Statutes, has remained largely unchanged in the nearly 30 years of the program;

Whereas, the Working Land Initiative was initiated by Governor Doyle to, in part, study the feasibility of revisions to said Chapter 91 and made several suggestions in Final Report;

Whereas, the Governor’s current proposed state budget, Assembly Bill 75, includes a proposed revision of said Chapter 91 that will require all counties to adopt or update a Farmland Preservation Plan and includes statutory standards for exclusive agricultural zoning that are questionable in their ability to be enforced;

Whereas, there has been no effort on behalf of the state to involve the counties and other local governments who are responsible for the administration of the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program and will be subject to the provisions of said Chapter 91 in this revision effort;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors opposes the inclusion of the revision of Chapter 91, Wisconsin Statutes in the Governor’s budget and that this effort be considered as a separate legislative act for the purpose of providing the opportunity for the involvement of the affected local governments and public.

Dated this April 21, 2009

Respectfully submitted by the Iowa County Economic Development, Extension & Property Committee