



## **2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

- **Meat Processing Grants:** WAMP **SUPPORTS** state funding to help meat processors survive and grow in today's economy by continuing the Meat Processor Infrastructure Grants providing \$10 million annually to approved processors (capped at \$150,000 with 100% matching funds required).
- **Workforce Training Grants:** The ability to attract and retain qualified workers to the meat industry is critical to our long-term success. WAMP **SUPPORTS** continuation of the \$5 million annual funding for the Meat Talent Development Grant, which includes grants to partially fund meat processor internships and tuition reimbursement for approved classes and workshops including courses on HACCP, Meat Curing and Processing and Humane Handling.
- **Immigration:** Foreign-born employees using seasonal visas are critical to the meat industry. WAMP **SUPPORTS** expansion of temporary work visas, including a state sponsored path for undocumented individuals to work in Wisconsin. In addition, WAMP supports incentivizing these individuals to move to Wisconsin by offering resident tuition for undocumented students and a method to obtain state-issued drivers licenses.
- **Labeling Bills:** WAMP **SUPPORTS** efforts to limit labeling of "meat" products to only those derived from an animal. The meat industry is subject to numerous labeling requirements that clearly spell out country of origin, nutrition and other information intended to benefit the consumer. Limiting the labeling of meat to animal-based products is also beneficial to the consumer and should be required.
- **Cottage Foods:** WAMP understands the need for the Legislature to address the licensing and regulation of cottage foods in Wisconsin. However, WAMP does not consider meat processing a cottage food and would **OPPOSE** efforts to allow unregulated meat processing.
- **Personal Property Tax:** WAMP **SUPPORTS** full repeal of Wisconsin's personal property tax (PPT). The personal property tax, after decades of exemptions, has become an unfair and difficult tax for small businesses. It is time for Wisconsin to fully repeal this archaic tax.
- **Interchange on Sales Tax:** Wisconsin meat processors, like all small businesses, have been hit hard by the continually increasing cost of interchange fees. WAMP **SUPPORTS** efforts that would prohibit interchange fees on taxes or other ways of making the retailer whole such as increasing the retailers discount for sales tax collection.
- **Workers Compensation:** The cost of workers compensation in the meat industry is extremely costly and ever-increasing. WAMP **SUPPORTS** efforts to reform and lower the costs of medical procedures covered under workers compensation.

*This list is not an all-inclusive list of issues of concern to the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors, but represents the guiding principles for major issues as well as key issues of importance to the industry that will be discussed during the legislative session.*