

Strengthening the ability of community banks to lend to Wisconsin's agriculture community is a topic to be addressed at a public hearing held by the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Issues. Individuals who are concerned about the over-reaching effects of federal regulations on small community banks are welcome to attend and listen to invited speakers from the financial industry. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Lunda Center on the campus of Western Technical College.

As Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and a member of the Financial Institutions and Rural Issues Committee, State Senator Dan Kapanke (R-La Crosse) is concerned about the growing problem of community banks being able to lend to local farmers and agriculture businesses. An example is Citizens First Bank in Viola where Vice President Eric Nottestad indicated that the current banking regulations paint the mega banks with the same brush as the small town community bank and bankers.

Senator Kapanke looks forward to a vigorous discussion on this issue – “Getting people back to work begins by opening up the lending process for small businesses and farmers in Wisconsin.”