

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Sen. André Jacque
Rep. Shae Sortwell

DATE: July 12, 2023

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-0038, the Wisconsin Vegetable Garden Protection Act

DEADLINE: July 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm

Growing our own food should be a basic human right. However, heavy-handed regulators have used local zoning ordinances to explicitly ban home vegetable gardens, or to put up unreasonable rules governing what homeowners may grow, and where they can plant their food, with heavy fines levied for violating these mandates.

State law should encourage and protect, not limit, home vegetable gardens. Recent events, including the global pandemic which has stressed global supply chains, emptied grocery store shelves, and increased food prices, makes protecting this basic human right a necessity for many today. This proposal, based on model legislation from the Institute for Justice, will protect the right of Wisconsin homeowners to grow their own food on their own property, free from unreasonable restrictions.

To be added as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please reply to this email or contact Sen. Jacque's office at 6-3512 or Rep. Sortwell's office at (608) 237-9102 by 5:00 pm on July 26, 2023. You will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions unless requested otherwise.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits a political subdivision from requiring a permit for or prohibiting the cultivation of a vegetable or flower garden on residential property not owned by the political subdivision.