

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Introducing the Rural Policy Institute: Championing Research and Advocacy for Rural Development in Wisconsin

[MADISON] - The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and The Welch Group announce the formation of the Rural Policy Institute (RPI). The Rural Policy Institute is a nonprofit nonpartisan coalition of agricultural and rural organizations dedicated to research and development of policies promoting generational prosperity for Wisconsin's rural communities.

RPI envisions a thriving and resilient rural Wisconsin where communities are empowered, resources are fairly distributed, and continued growth is achieved. Our mission is to develop, promote, and implement strategic policies capitalizing on the unique characteristics of rural areas while addressing key issues such as infrastructure, healthcare, workforce, education, and economic development.

This year, RPI will showcase our research, white papers and host events providing a platform for stakeholders to engage, collaborate, and learn about the need for robust advocacy addressing the challenges faced by rural communities.

"For the first time, leading rural voices are coming together to collaborate on a shared vision to address the challenges and opportunities facing our rural communities," said Mike Koles, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Towns Association and President of the RPI Board of Directors.

If you are interested in becoming a partner or want to learn more about the Rural Policy Institute, please visit our website at ruralpolicyinstitute.org or follow us on LinkedIn. Your support and collaboration are crucial as we work together to create a strong future for rural Wisconsin.