Resolution No. 75 - 01/20
Supporting Legislation to Require the Department of Revenue to Share Utility Aid Payment Information with Counties and Municipalities

Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

WHEREAS, utility aid payments help counties and municipalities pay for services provided to tax exempt utility property; and,

WHEREAS, currently, utility company asset data is not accessible to state and local elected officials in a manner that allows for determination regarding current and future utility aid payments in lieu of local general property taxation; and,

WHEREAS, costs cannot be directly recouped through property taxation since utilities are exempt from local taxation and, instead, are taxed by the state; and,

WHEREAS, these payments in lieu of taxes are also viewed as partial compensation for the air pollution, noise, traffic congestion, property maintenance, emergency services and land use limitations caused by the presence of utility property; and,

WHEREAS, there is pending legislation that will require the Department of Revenue (DOR) to annually publish on its internet site information related to the determination of utility aid payments received by counties and municipalities where production plan property is located, including the value, depreciation amounts, and generating capacity of production plants, the date of which such property is closed or decommissioned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors hereby supports legislation to require the Department of Revenue to share the above-stated utility aid payment information with counties and municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association and Legislators representing Walworth County.

Nancy Russell
County Board Chair

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: January 14, 2020

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

David A. Bretl
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Jessica Conley
Finance Director

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.