Resolution No. 2016-19

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE UW-EXTENSION REORGANIZATION PLAN

TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, The process used to develop the UW-Extension Reorganization Plan was flawed, providing inadequate opportunity for meaningful input and consideration of County concerns; and

WHEREAS, The plan, as proposed, jeopardizes the partnership between UW-System and Wisconsin Counties, a partnership built on communication, collaboration and engagement; and

WHEREAS, The current Cooperative Extension system has a proven track record of success for more than 100 years as a single County based model for governance, locally set levy contribution and County determined educational programming priorities under the oversight of a County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee designated by the elected County Board; and

WHEREAS, The reorganization plan imposes a drastic change on rural county extension programs, shifts a greater portion of Extension resources to urban areas, reduces educator positions in rural counties, and adds a new layer of administrative overhead not accountable to county boards; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties are unlikely to continue the current level of county tax levy support in future years if direct educational services are significantly decreased, thereby making the proposed reorganization plan reckless and financially unsustainable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Door County Board of Supervisors herein assembled, hereby opposes the UW-Cooperative Extension reorganization plan approved by Chancellor Sandeen on February 10, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Door County is not willing to continue providing local tax levy funding at the current level if direct county educator services are decreased as described in the plan while eliminating accountability to the County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee and County Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Door County welcomes the opportunity to be engaged in a meaningful process of developing a more workable reorganization plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all 72 Wisconsin County Boards/Extension Education Committee Chairs and County Extension Department Heads; the Wisconsin Counties Association; County Executives and Administrators; Governor Walker; President Ray Cross and the Board of Regents; Senator Frank Lasee; Representative Joel Kitchens, Assembly Speaker Voss; and Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald.

SUBMITTED BY: AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ray Englebert, Chair

Randy Halstead

Don Sitte

John Neinas

Reviewed by: Corp. Counsel

Administrator

FISCAL IMPACT Door County has budgeted County Tax Levy of $255,338 for 2016 for the Door County UW Extension Department; adoption of this resolution will not change that. The effect on future years' budgets is unknown at this time. MEJ

Certification:

I, Jill M. Lau, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 22nd day of March 2016 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.

Jill M. Lau
County Clerk, Door County