RESOLUTION #17-5-17

SUPPORT FOR A SEGREGATED FUNDING SOURCE FOR FORESTRY PROGRAMS IN WISCONSIN

1. WHEREAS, Governor Walker’s 2017-2019 Executive Budget proposal contains provisions to eliminate Wisconsin’s Forestry Mill Tax; and

2. WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Forestry Mill Tax was established in 1937 for the purpose of acquiring, preserving and developing the forests of the state; and

3. WHEREAS, sustainable forestry and public land management are critically important to our state’s economic health; and

4. WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties hold significant acreage of lands enrolled under Wisconsin’s County Forest Law (§ Wis. Stat. 28.10 & 28.11) and the citizens of Wisconsin value these County Forests because they provide reliable raw materials for the $24 billion forest products industry, as well as, public access and recreation programs on more than 2.4 million acres of forested lands that are vital to Wisconsin’s $18 billion tourism industry; and

5. WHEREAS, this account has supported forest management operations including wildland fire protection critical for protecting Wisconsin’s forests, as well as partial funding support for county forest programs since its inception; and

6. WHEREAS, Clark County regularly receives County Forest Administration grants, wildlife grants, habitat grants, sustainable forestry grants, stewardship grants, and thousands of hours of direct DNR assistance all of which are funded by the forestry account; and

7. WHEREAS, the forestry account also funds a significant portion of Wisconsin’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program debt ($13.5 million each year), as well as a significant portion of Wisconsin’s Payment In Lieu of Tax on state owned lands purchased under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program ($6.75 million each year); and

8. WHEREAS, a stable source of funding is necessary for maintaining our public lands in Wisconsin; and

I, Christina M. Jensen, Clerk for the County of Clark, hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors at the meeting held May 25, 2017

Christina M. Jensen
Clark County Clerk
Neillsville, WI 54456

SEAL
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37. WHEREAS, the actual amount of funding needed to conduct essential
38. forestry programs in Wisconsin is unknown; and
39. 
40. WHEREAS, Wisconsin County Forests have relied on segregated forestry
41. funding to meet the state’s statutory obligation to “compensate counties
42. for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a
43. manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which
44. such lands lie”; and
45. 
46. WHEREAS, without a segregated funding source, it will be difficult to
47. fully fund necessary forestry programs in the future when competing
48. against transportation, education, health care, and other programs for
49. limited General Purpose Revenue funds.
50. 
51. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clark County Board of
52. Supervisors hereby supports a segregated funding source for forestry
53. programs in Wisconsin to be included in Governor Walker’s 2017-2019
54. Executive Budget and all future State biennium budget proposals.
55. 
56. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk is hereby directed to
57. forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators
58. representing Clark County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
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FORESTRY AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Al Bower

Dean Zank

Dale Mitte

Joe Waichulis

Tom Wilcox

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
New Positions: None
Anticipated Revenue: Per Budget
Wages and Benefits: Per Budget
All other costs: None
Space: None

Reviewed by: [signature]
Corp Counsel
Reviewed by: [signature]
Comptroller