INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To encourage the Wisconsin Legislature to allocate the soon to be ended 2 cent per gallon petroleum tax for PECFA/Petroleum Inspection Fee funding to general transportation aids to counties.

FISCAL NOTE: If this resolution were to be enacted, it would have the potential to provide substantial revenue to all counties in the form of general transportation aids without raising taxes.

WHEREAS, the state commenced imposing a 2 cent per gallon tax on the sale of petroleum to end users in the late 1980s to fund the petroleum environmental cleanup fund award (PECFA) program, and

WHEREAS, the state is in the process of shutting the PECFA program down in that all claims for awards need to be filed by July 1, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the state has for many years imposed a tax freeze on counties that makes it impossible for Wood County and other counties to keep up with the cost of inflation in maintaining and replacing their highways, which forces counties like Wood to borrow funds and use debt to circumvent the tax freeze, and

WHEREAS, the state has a 30.9 cent per gallon gas tax, a fixed part of which goes to counties as general transportation aids (GTAs), and using tax levy and debt to pay for highway repairs and improvements not covered by the GTA puts the financial responsibility on taxpayers as opposed to other users of the highways and is unfair to all Wisconsin taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, reallocating the current 2 cent per gallon PECFA petroleum tax/Petroleum Inspection Fee to general transportation aids to counties would be a fiscally responsible means for the state to assist counties in addressing the financial bind they are in without the need to create administrative infrastructure to syphon off any of the revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to go on record in requesting the state legislature to reallocate the 2 cent per gallon petroleum tax from the PECFA program/Petroleum Inspection Fee to the general transportation aids to counties program beginning with the next biennial budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to State Senators Petrowski, Testin and Moulton and State Representatives Kulp, VanderMeer, Krug and Spiros, and to the Wisconsin Counties Association so that they may sponsor legislation implementing this proposal.

Motion: Adopted: X
1st Winch
2nd Zurfluh
No: 0 Yes: 19 Absent: 0

Number of votes required: X Majority Two-thirds
Reviewed by: PAK , Corp Counsel

NO YES A
1 LaFontaine, D X
2 Rozar, D X
3 Feirer, M X
4 Wagner, E X
5 Fischer, A X
6 Breu, A X
7 Ashbeck, R X
8 Kremer, B X
9 Winch, W X
10 Henkel, H X
11 Curry, K X
12 Machon, D X
13 Hokamp, M X
14 Polach, D X
15 Clendenning, B X
16 Pliml, L X
17 Zurfluh, J X
18 Hamilton, B X
19 Leichtnam, B X

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this day of September, 2017.