RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE UW-COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REORGANIZATION PLAN

To the Honorable Chair and Board of Supervisors of Calumet County, Wisconsin:

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

WHEREAS, The plan, as proposed, jeopardizes the partnership between UW-System and Wisconsin Counties, a partnership which was built on working together to find solutions, not accepting a plan unilaterally imposed by a decision of UW-Extension; and

WHEREAS, The current Cooperative Extension System has a proven track record of success for over 100 years as a single-county based model for governance, locally set levy contribution, and individual County-determined education programming priorities under the policy guidance of each County Extension Committee designated by the elected County Board; and

WHEREAS, The reorganization plan imposes a drastic and reckless change, eliminates local faculty education positions, and adds an unnecessary layer of area director positions who will not provide face-to-face educational programs nor be accountable to local partners and 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 financially unsustainable.

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

Calumet County is not willing to continue providing local tax levy funding at the current level if direct educational faculty services are decreased as described in the plan while eliminating accountability to the County Agriculture and Extension Committee and the County Board.

Calumet 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; Senators Frank Lasee, Duey Stroebel, and Devin LeMahieu; Representatives Al Ott, Jesse Kremer, and Paul Tittl; Assembly Speaker Voss; and Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald.

Dated this 15th day of March 2016.

INTRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Lyle Ott, Chair

Duaine Stillman

Ronald C. Green

Patrick Laughlin

Joe Mueller

AND

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Merlin Gentz, Chair

Ralph Prescott

Ronald Dietrich

Robert Stanke
WKBarnabeau
Bill Barnabeau

Donald Glaeser

Peter Stier

COUNTERSIGNED BY

Alice Connors
Alice Connors, County Board Chair