



Enrolled No. R162-054

RESOLUTION

File No. 18-19/085

- SUPPORTING THE UW-EAU CLAIRE SCIENCE AND HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING PROJECT.-

**WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a significant impact on the recruitment and retention of high-talent students to northwestern Wisconsin and,

**WHEREAS**, UW-Eau Claire's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and health sciences graduates possess crucial skillsets that meet talent needs for this region; and

**WHEREAS**, UW-Eau Claire's current science building, Phillips Hall, was constructed in 1963 and 1966 and was not designed to accommodate modern scientific instruction and inquiry; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillips Hall's infrastructure is so obsolete and inefficient that, while it is only one of 33 buildings maintained by UW-Eau Claire, it accounts for 27 percent of all annual campus work orders; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillips Hall's teaching and research spaces are inflexible and do not allow for the interdisciplinary collaboration with outside industries that typify a modern STEM education; and

**WHEREAS**, conducting research alongside industry partners provides valuable experience to undergraduates that, in turn, makes them more attractive to prospective employers; and

**WHEREAS**, these experiences also expose students to professional settings and business organizations in the surrounding area, increasing the likelihood that they choose to live and work in this region after graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to meet the existing demand for academic research and laboratory spaces is a challenge for industry innovation and student recruitment and retention; and

**WHEREAS**, the UW System Board of Regents has approved a plan to replace Phillips Hall with a new UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building; and

**WHEREAS**, UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project requires \$109 million in the 2019-21 state budget, including approval for \$13.7 million in private philanthropy; and

**WHEREAS**, this building project requires advanced enumeration of \$147 million in the 2021-23 budget, bringing the project's total budget to \$256 million; and

**WHEREAS**, providing state funding for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of critical economic infrastructure to support northwestern Wisconsin's talent recruitment and retention needs in STEM and health sciences fields; and

**WHEREAS**, state support for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of a state of the art facility that embodies the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and technological innovation, replacing one of the most inefficient buildings on campus.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors supports the inclusion of UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building in the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget as recommended by the UW System Board of Regents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that advanced enumeration for funding in the 2021-23 Wisconsin State Budget is essential to ensure this project is completed without additional inflation and that Phillips Hall can be demolished in a timely manner to eliminate ongoing maintenance and operational expenses.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors encourages the construction of a building that achieves high energy efficiency and environmental standards, in keeping with sustainability goals shared by UW-Eau Claire and the County and recognizing the significance of the proposed building site neighboring the Putnam Park State Natural Area and the scenic Chippewa River.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the UW System Board of Regents.

ADOPTED: November 20, 2018

Janet K. Loomis  
County Clerk