

RESOLUTION # 2021-1

Title: **Vernon County Support of State Funding for more equitable return of Utility Tax collections to Counties and Municipalities as Utility Aid.**

WHEREAS, shared revenue utility aid payments help counties and municipalities pay for services provided to tax-exempt utility property, and

WHEREAS, These payments-in-lieu of taxes are also viewed as partial compensation for the air pollution, noise, traffic congestion, property maintenance, emergency services and land use limitations caused by the presence of utility property, and

WHEREAS, state has typically retained about eighty percent of utility tax collections for use as General Purpose Revenue (GPR), rather than return those dollars to counties and municipalities where the utilities are located.

WHEREAS, In 2019-20, the state collected \$351.4 million in utility taxes, but only returned \$75.6 million to local governments as utility aid, and

WHEREAS, Moreover, payments generated through the current utility aid formula aid formula, (2005 -2018) have largely been stagnant, both as a percentage of tax collections and in the actual dollars distributed to counties and municipalities. Stagnant or declining aid results in a burdensome shift in taxes to owners of the remaining taxable property.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Finance Committee hereby encourages the Governor's budget to include a provision in your 2021-23 budget plan to provide for a fairer, more equitable return of utility tax collections to counties and municipalities as utility aid with an inflationary increase built into the utility aid formula.

Submitted by Finance Committee

January 21, 2021

*Rod Ofte*

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Rod Ofte, Vernon County Finance Committee Chair

Attested by County Clerk

*Jody Audetat*  
Jody Audetat, Vernon County Clerk

*Jan. 21, 2021*  
Date

- Copies:
- Governor Tony Evers
- State Senator Brad Pfaff
- State Representative Loren Oldenburg
- WCUTA Executive Director, Alice O'Connor
- WCA Tax lobbyist, Kyle Christiansen