

RESOLUTION NO. 32 -2025

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE TO TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CANADIAN WILDFIRE POLLUTION ON WISCONSIN
RESIDENTS**

WHEREAS, Sawyer County is committed to protecting the health, safety, and economic well-being of its residents, communities, and natural environment; and

WHEREAS, wildfire smoke originating from Canada has increasingly and repeatedly affected air quality across Wisconsin, including Sawyer County, resulting in extended periods of unsafe air conditions as measured by the Air Quality Index (AQI); and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health Services have issued multiple air quality advisories in recent years due to particulate matter pollution from Canadian wildfires, creating health risks for vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions; and

WHEREAS, the persistent poor air quality negatively impacts outdoor recreation, tourism, and small businesses—critical economic drivers for Sawyer County and northern Wisconsin as a whole; and

WHEREAS, prolonged exposure to elevated levels of wildfire smoke has both immediate and long-term public health consequences and places strain on local healthcare and emergency response systems; and

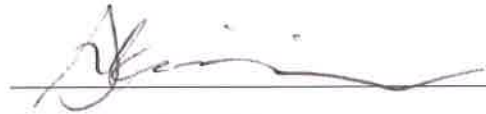

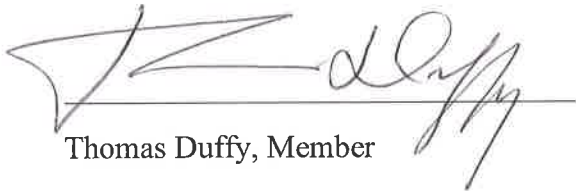
WHEREAS, air pollution originating from outside the United States requires coordinated cross-border and intergovernmental response to protect Wisconsin residents and mitigate future occurrences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors, meeting in regular session and through the Economic Development & UW-Extension Committee, respectfully urges the Governor of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Senate, and the Wisconsin State Assembly to:

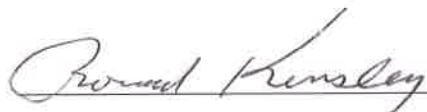

1. Advocate for federal engagement with Canadian authorities to mitigate transboundary wildfire smoke;
2. Support additional state funding and resources for local governments to monitor and respond to air quality crises;
3. Develop public health and emergency response strategies specific to repeated smoke-related events;
4. Study the long-term economic impact of air pollution on Wisconsin's recreation-based and tourism economies, particularly in northern counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Office of the Governor, the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly leadership, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

This Resolution is recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on August 21, 2025, by this Sawyer County Economic Development & UW-Extension Committee this 11th Day of August, 2025.


John Righeimer, Chair
Steve Kariainen, Member
Stacey Hessel, Vice Chair
Randy Neumann, Member
Thomas Duffy, Member

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of August, 2025.


Ron Kinsley, Chair,
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Liz Klein, County Clerk