

RESOLUTION NO. 20-81

SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR 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, and

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 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors that the State Legislators consider an amendment to the State 2021-2023 budget to include a provision in 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; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin seek enhanced transparency in utility company asset data to clarify and enhance the analysis of the impacts of tax-exempt utility properties in Wisconsin municipalities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ozaukee County Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to all of the State of Wisconsin Legislators representing Ozaukee County.

Dated at Port Washington, Wisconsin, this 3rd day of March, 2021.

SUMMARY: The resolution seeks an inflationary increase in utility aid payments to account for the increased costs to municipalities where tax-exempt utility property is sited.

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: R. Nelson, Supervisor District 6

SECONDER: K. Geracie, Supervisor District 15

AYES: Schlenvogt, Melotik, Wolf, Geracie, Korinek, Nelson

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RETURN OF UTILITY TAX COLLECTIONS TO
COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AS UTILITY AID

 **Passed By Majority Vote**

Winker		YES
Haas		YES
Jobs		YES
Schlenvogt		YES
Clark		YES
Nelson		YES
Becker		EXCUSED
Larson		YES
Grabow		YES
Melotik		YES
Wolf	s	YES
Richart		YES
Korinek		YES

Herro		YES
Geracie		EXCUSED
Duecker		EXCUSED
Irish	M	YES
Wirth		YES
Ross		YES
Marchese		YES
Strom		YES
Holyoke		YES
Henrichs		EXCUSED
Braverman		YES
Read		YES
Minkel-Dumit		YES

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