

RESOLUTION 2015-10

Opposing Reduction of Recycling Grant Funding

Village of Allouez

TO THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, GOVERNER SCOTT WALKER, BROWN COUNTY STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

WHEREAS, recycling provides a whole host of environmental benefits, including preserving natural resources, less air pollution, energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reducing mining wastes and conserving landfill space; and

WHEREAS, recycling also provides extensive economic benefits, providing material feedstock for manufacturing, business development, state and local tax revenue and four times more jobs than the disposal industry; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin mandated recycling in 1990 under 1989 Wisconsin Act 335 and Administrative Code NR 544; and

WHEREAS, Towns, Villages, Cities and Counties, hereafter Municipalities, responded by becoming Responsible Units (RUs) for Recycling and as such, invested millions of dollars in education, collection and processing infrastructure for Effective Recycling Programs; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Allouez was one of the first municipalities to implement automated dual stream recycling to enhance recycling effectiveness including purchase of collection trucks and carts, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Allouez invested significant dollars in implementing an effective recycling program including more than \$2 million dollars in recycling collection equipment, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Allouez continues to invest approximately \$150,000 per year to operate its curbside recycling program, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Allouez in 2012 to further enhance operational efficiencies and expand recyclable material acceptance the Village changed from dual stream recycling to single stream recycling, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin originally proposed to cost share 66% of the Municipalities' costs for establishing and maintaining Effective Recycling Programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on Municipalities putting many under severe financial constraints; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-2017 Executive Budget Bill proposed by Governor Scott Walker seeks to reduce recycling grant funding to RUs by \$4 million in 2015-2016; eliminate funding for the Department of Corrections computer recycling program, the UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program; and

WHEREAS, the source of funding for recycling grants for RUs is the \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee charged on each ton of municipal solid waste disposed of at Wisconsin landfills; and

WHEREAS, the Recycling Fee generates an average of \$34.1 million per year, yet the recycling funding to RUs has eroded from nearly \$30 million in 2008 to \$19 million in 2011 to the proposed \$15 million for 2015, a 50% reduction in seven years, while the full \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee continues to be collected by the State; and

WHEREAS, the proposed \$15 million recycling grant allocation is anticipated to cover only 14% of actual program costs of the mandated recycling program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Allouez Village Board of Trustees that it hereby opposes the \$4 million reduction of RU recycling grant funding in 2015-2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Allouez supports the full use of the Recycling Fee as the source of funding for financial assistance to Municipalities, as it was intended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Brown County State Representatives and State Senators, the Joint Committee on Finance, and Governor Scott Walker.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Village Board of the Village of Allouez, this 7th day of May, 2015.

Randall L. Gast, Village President

ATTEST:

Debra M. Baenen, Village Clerk-Treasurer