

**RESOLUTION R- \_\_ -11**

**Introduced by Mayor Donald Merkes.**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING THE STATE MANDATE FOR RECYLCING PROGRAMS AND RELATED GRANTS TO THE 2011-2013 STATE BIENNIAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a history of strong leadership regarding recycling and sustainable practices;

WHEREAS, recycling extends the life of landfills in Wisconsin, conserves Wisconsin's natural resources, and helps sustain the environment for future generations; and

WHEREAS, research completed by the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency shows recycling protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and increases U.S. competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin Survey Center, commissioned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (2006), demonstrated that 93% of Wisconsin residents favor or strongly favor the Recycling Law and 96% of Wisconsin households are "committed" to recycling; 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 responded by becoming Responsible Units for Recycling and as such, invested millions of dollars in education, collection and processing infrastructure for Effective Recycling Programs; 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, since 1990, the State has taken over one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) away from the Recycling and Renewable Energy Segregated Fund to pay for other State programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menasha and other local units of government pay tipping fees to the State of Wisconsin to fund the recycling grant program; and

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

WHEREAS many of the successful recycling programs will be eliminated if funding is not continued.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Menasha Sustainability Board in partnership with the City of Menasha Common Council strongly urges the Wisconsin State Legislature to restore the recycling program mandate and recycling grants to the 2011-2013 State Biennial Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to State Senator Michael Ellis, State Representative Dean Kaufert and State Representative Al Ott, the State of Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance, and Governor Scott Walker.

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

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Donald Merkes, Mayor

Attest:

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Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk