



Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018

To: City of Milwaukee Community and Economic Development Committee

From: Tyler Huebner, Executive Director, RENEW Wisconsin

Re: Support for Resolution #180211, "Substitute resolution approving a non-disclosure agreement between the City of Milwaukee and the WEC Energy Group relating to the development of utility-scale solar facilities for City use."

Dear Alders,

I am writing to support Resolution #180211 which would enable the City of Milwaukee to advance discussions with WEC Energy Group in an effort to power more of the City's electrical operations with clean, renewable, and Wisconsin-based solar power.

The cost of solar power has dropped over 70% since 2010, as noted in the resolution. Wisconsin currently has approximately 80 megawatts of solar power capacity, enough to provide the annual electric needs of about 10,800 Wisconsin homes. Wisconsin utilities, including WEC Energy Group, are beginning to seriously consider utility-scale solar as an alternative to coal-based electric power generation. This is a very exciting time for solar energy.

However, Wisconsin currently remains dependent on out-of-state coal and natural gas for approximately 75% of our electricity production.

In order to facilitate a faster transition to clean energy, we need leadership and fresh approaches. The City of Milwaukee has this opportunity to lead and work with its local utility, WEC Energy Group, to identify cost-effective opportunities to integrate more Wisconsin-based solar energy into the electric grid. Over 70 large national companies and many communities throughout the nation are pursuing similar goals with their local power providers. (See buyersprinciples.org)

I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution to enable the City's Environmental Collaboration Office to enter into a non-disclosure agreement, a necessary step for the City to determine if a cost-effective solar project can be negotiated with the utility.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Huebner".

Tyler Huebner
Executive Director
RENEW Wisconsin