

## Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance

February 12, 2020

Alderman Robert Bauman  
Chairman, Public Works Committee

Dear Alderman Bauman,

**RE: Common Council file 191604**

<https://milwaukee.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4312845&GUID=D4234374-5689-493F-8919-0335CC5E4BF2&Options=ID|Text|&Search=191604>

This letter is to indicate the support of Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance (MECA) for a resolution authorizing a lease and service agreement for the construction and operation of a solar power system on a City-owned landfill at 1600 E College Ave, which is referenced above and detailed in Common Council file 191604.

MECA is a partnership of organizations with a common interest in advocating for strong action in Milwaukee to prevent a climate catastrophe and to end the permanent economic depression for people in communities of color.

The Common Council should support the resolution and urge the proposed project to proceed without delay. Why? Because, with 10 years left to drastically reduce greenhouse gases, the City cannot pass up this huge opportunity to take significant strides towards meeting its commitments on climate action.

Like many Common Council members, we have significant policy disagreements with WE Energies. However taking advantage of the utility's Solar Now program to quickly move forward with the solar field project described in file 191604, with very little investment by or risk to the City, is a clear "win" for the City and for the climate. Advancing this project does not prevent the City from pursuing strenuous action to open up other paths to renewable energy, using multiple strategies and including many players.

The next step in advancing the resolution is for the Public Works Committee to take it up for consideration at its February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. From there, it can advance to the full Council.

The project will:

- Be the single largest solar project in the City of Milwaukee, covering approximately 8 acres of land with 7,280 solar panels.
- Cost the City nothing to build or maintain
- Provide documented progress toward the City's renewable energy goals and keeps about 15 rail cars of coal from being burned every year.

- Provide grid resilience to the adjacent 128 Air National Guard and can act as an emergency recovery asset in the event of a regional grid failure
- Generate over \$90,000 per year in revenue for the City that could support additional climate action

We applaud the efforts of the City's Environmental Collaboration Office in putting together the proposal identifying a project opportunity which is uniquely well-suited to take advantage of WE Energies' Solar Now program to the City's – and the climate's-- advantage, without utilizing prime roof-top or other potential solar resource sites which the City might prefer to develop using third-party contracts or other mechanisms currently blocked by problematic WE Energies and PSC policies.

We hope we can count on your favorable consideration of and advocacy for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance

cc:

President Ashanti  
Hamilton

Ald. Michael J. Murphy

Ald. Nik Kovac

Ald. Mark A. Borkowski

Ald. Cavalier Johnson