

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

June 9, 2023

To: Honorable Members of the ZND Committee
Ald. Michael J. Murphy, Chair
Ald. Robert J. Bauman, Vice-Chair
Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II
Ald. Jocasta Zamarripa
Ald. Jonathan Brostoff

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I am writing to you in support of the proposed Climate and Equity Plan, as approved by the City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity on March 21, 2023 and the City Plan Commission on June 5, 2023. The Task Force was convened in 2019 and has worked for 4 years, across disparate sectors, to create a plan with the backing of many major organizations in this City who came together to advance a plan that address climate change and creates economic opportunity. I participated in the Task Force representing Labor from start to finish, and many other trades representatives participated to both learn about promising initiatives as well as to share knowledge about our industry, and how millions of private sector dollars in registered apprenticeship programs can be leveraged to help us achieve the economic and employment opportunities before us.

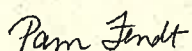
As noted by other Task Force members, there are serious climate issues that need addressing. Milwaukee, like other large cities, is a contributor to climate change. While it may be easier to recognize the effects of climate change in other parts of the country, Milwaukee is not exempt. Changing weather patterns, including extreme weather events followed by heat waves and drought, are already producing floods, generating heat islands, impairing air quality, and impacting food production – all of which affect the health and well-being of our community.

The plan works to create a transition from legacy energy to renewable energy, ensuring that workers are protected along the way, a concept known as “just transition.” We know that there will be opportunity in energy efficiency measures on both the residential and commercial level, improving indoor air quality in schools, solar farms, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, LED lighting conversion, and eradicating lead from our water systems, and other ideas that will be developed in the Green Jobs Accelerator. Leaders from the Laborers, Electricians, Plumbers and others helped create this plan for a better future for Milwaukee. We already have new union members working in some of these emerging sectors

The Climate and Equity Plan is a comprehensive set of strategies which work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce racial and income inequality. The goal is to reduce emissions by 45% by the 2030 and to create new living wage jobs (defined as \$40,000 and above) to create employment opportunities for City residents, especially those who suffer most from un- or under- employment.

Both the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act will send funding to Wisconsin. Having a comprehensive plan in place will position Milwaukee well to apply for competitive funding. The City is already seeking funding from 8 different grant sources from these federal programs. When the Task Force convened, we had many big ideas, and no idea where any funding would come from. Now we have plans and financing opportunities. It has been an honor to work on this endeavor for our shared future.

Sincerely,



Pam Fendt, President
Milwaukee Area Labor Council
EM/OPEIU9, AFLCIO

Organizing for economic and social justice in the workplace and community

