

..Number

080313

..Version

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE C

..Reference

..Sponsor

ALD. BAUMAN, BOHL AND KOVAC

..Title

Substitute resolution urging Milwaukee County to withdraw from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

..Analysis

This resolution urges Milwaukee County to withdraw from membership and participation in the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. It also expresses the City of Milwaukee's support for creation of a metropolitan planning commission consisting of Milwaukee County only.

..Body

Whereas, In 1960, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission ("SEWRPC"), an agency charged with performing comprehensive planning activities for a 7-county region that includes Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Washington, Ozaukee and Walworth counties; and

Whereas, SEWRPC is governed by a 21-member commission consisting of 3 members from each of the 7 counties in the region; and

Whereas, Milwaukee County, with over 47% of the region's population, is allocated only 14% of the votes on the commission, while the City of Milwaukee, with 30% of the region's population, is afforded no votes whatsoever; and

Whereas, In 2007, Milwaukee County paid \$834,000 (35.2%) of the \$2,370,000 in property tax levies collected by SEWRPC from its 7 member counties; and

Whereas, These statistics clearly demonstrate that SEWRPC's operation is a classic example of taxation without representation; and

Whereas, SEWRPC's staff, as well as members of its various advisory committee, are overwhelmingly residents of suburban communities; and

Whereas, SEWRPC's offices are located in a suburban, office-park-type setting in Pewaukee, inaccessible by public transportation and far removed from the urbanized Milwaukee community that accounts for the majority of southeastern Wisconsin's residents and tax base; and

Whereas, For the past 5 decades, SEWRPC's planning activities and priorities in such areas as land use, transportation and housing have been decidedly oriented

toward the suburban and rural communities that are home to the vast majority of its commission members and professional staff, thereby giving Milwaukee County and City of Milwaukee residents little “bang for the buck” from their SEWRPC contributions and producing scant few planning documents beneficial to Milwaukee; and

Whereas, The time has come for Milwaukee County, as the tax-base, population, employment and transportation center of the region, to withdraw from SEWRPC and establish its own one-county regional planning commission, as permitted under state law; and

Whereas, Establishment and operation of a Milwaukee County regional planning commission would ensure that the planning needs and priorities of the County and the City of Milwaukee are addressed in a timely and thorough manner; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that Milwaukee County is urged to withdraw from membership and participation in the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City of Milwaukee opposes the recertification by the Federal Highway Administration of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Southeastern Wisconsin in its current format and organization structure; and, be it

Further Resolved, That, in the event that Milwaukee County withdraws from membership and participation in the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the City of Milwaukee supports the creation of a one-county metropolitan planning commission consisting of Milwaukee County; and, be it

Further Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution, the City Clerk shall send copies of the resolution to County Executive Scott Walker, all members of the Milwaukee County Board and the Federal Highway Administration.

..Requestor

..Drafter  
LRB08310-4  
JDO  
10/28/08