



June 12, 2023

Honorable Members of the Milwaukee Common Council

c/o Office of the City Clerk
Milwaukee City Hall, Room 205
200 E Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

To the Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

I am writing in strong support of the Climate and Equity Plan that you will take up this week in committees and as the full Council on June 20th.

Julie Kersick has represented our organization on the City/County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity for more than three years. We believe its plan and recommendations should be adopted by the Council and incorporated into Milwaukee's Overall Comprehensive Plan—and implemented as soon as possible. We recognize that the city's fiscal picture does not likely allow for it to fund many of the recommendations. However, there are unprecedented opportunities to seek federal funds that have already been approved by Congress. The need is urgent.

There are many reasons why Community Advocates is speaking in favor of the Climate and Equity Plan. I want to highlight two areas—its potential impact on safe housing and its provisions on building the work force for Green Jobs. Our organization is on the front lines of helping people in crisis, particularly those who are facing eviction and/or homelessness. The causes are complex, but we see a worsening availability of affordable housing that is also safe and healthy for families. This plan will allow the City to scale up existing efforts on lead abatement and housing retrofits that address energy efficiency. We must act to change the trajectory of the current exposure to lead and unsafe housing.

Community Advocates and our Public Policy Institute also see the effects of unemployment and under-employment in people coming to us for help with immediate crises. The Climate and Equity Plan has specific and thoughtful strategies for how to build the workforce for good quality jobs that will be in demand as we reduce our carbon emissions.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you to adopt the full plan.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mallmann-Elliott

Andrea Mallmann-Elliott
Chief Executive Officer