



TO: Milwaukee Common Council – Steering and Rules Committee

FROM: Building Advantage, Chris Mambu Rasch – Executive Director

DATE: June 23, 2023

RE: Support for 2 percent sales tax increase

Dear Steering and Rules Committee Members,

On behalf of Building Advantage, I write to share our enthusiastic support for the 2 percent increase in local sales tax revenue for the City of Milwaukee.

Building Advantage is a joint labor and management council representing building contractors and building trades unions in Southeastern Wisconsin. We represent and work for hundreds of employer building contractors and thousands of building trades union members and their unions, on issues of mutual concern and interest for both labor and management.

The issue before the Steering and Rules Committee is whether to adopt and enact new sales tax revenue to allow the City of Milwaukee to raise close to \$190 million. Building Advantage encourages you to vote yes on this critical investment for the City of Milwaukee.

This investment will help ensure that the construction projects, which continue to increase in the City of Milwaukee, continue without developers and investors having to worry about the future and solvency of a city where they are making hundreds of millions of dollars of investments. The current construction projects are employing thousands of union construction workers which are having a tremendous positive impact on our community. We need to keep this momentum going by shoring up the city's finances.

While not an easy vote given several of the issues surrounding the state authorization, this is the tool the state has now permitted the city of Milwaukee to utilize and there are no other options. We encourage you to shore up Milwaukee's finances and vote yes on increasing the sales tax by 2 percent.

Thank you for all you do and our sincere appreciation for considering our support.

Best,

Chris Mambu Rasch
Executive Director
Building Advantage
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