



July 10, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Cavalier Johnson
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee. WI 53202

Honorable Members of the Common Council
c/o Jim Owczarski, City Clerk
Milwaukee City Hall, Room 205
200 E Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Common Council:

We, the members of Sierra Club Great Waters Group, are writing in support of the measure to increase Milwaukee's sales tax by 2%. We understand that without this tax increase the City will no longer have the funds necessary to adequately cover many important and essential services, such as trash collection, street repair, and library services. We also understand that the funds raised from the sales tax increase will help make it possible to enact some of the plans laid out in the recently passed Climate and Equity Plan.

We are outraged by the provisions that the state legislature attached to the shared revenue bill such as requiring the return of police officers to schools, setting an annual arrest quota, and stripping the powers of the Fire and Police Commission. It is our understanding that these provisions are being enacted with or without the sales tax increase; we therefore feel it is incumbent on the city to be able to continue essential services and recognize that will not be possible without the additional 2% tax.

We applaud the Common Council members who have filed objections to the Act 12 provisions that limit diversity equity and inclusion efforts and fervently hope that they can be removed from the shared revenue legislation. We stand ready to help in whatever way we can to back those objections.

Thank you for all that you do in service to the residents of Milwaukee. We hope that the sales tax increase will supply the needed funds to help City residents thrive and to preserve and protect our environmental resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Abel".

Jenny Abel, Chair
Great Waters Group Executive Committee

Sierra Club, Great Waters Group

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