

# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

## Assembly Bill 575

October 12, 2021

Good morning Mr. Chairman and committee members and thank you for taking time today to hear Senate Bill 560. At the request of several member counties, this bill clarifies the tax-exempt status of facilities owned by Regional Planning Commissions.

Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of counties and municipalities located within their defined geographical areas. RPCs are granted broad power in order to address “physical, social, and economic development of the region.”

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) was created in 1959 and is comprised of the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn. NWRPC provides various services for its region with a focus on economic and business development.

In order to combat challenging economic conditions that have persisted in rural northwest Wisconsin communities, the NWRPC has developed a business incubation/enterprise network. The network consists of 11 facilities totaling 180,000 square feet and predominantly serves manufacturers. Graduates of the program have gone on to acquire \$5 million of vacant/existing manufacturing space in addition to investing \$10 million in construction of new manufacturing space. The investment in fixed assets represents nearly 400,000 square feet of active production space in private ownership and has resulted in 464 high-quality jobs with over \$25 million in payroll. The NWRPC enterprise center network has addressed a gap that existed in the regional economy and is a vital tool for the ongoing development of manufacturers in northwest Wisconsin.

As a subunit of local government, the NWRPC—and all other RPCs—are property tax exempt. However, because RPCs are not specifically listed as tax exempt in state statute, recent questions have been raised by assessors. In order to ensure the NWRPC can continue its current business incubation network, SB 560 codifies decades of existing assessment practice and specifically includes RPCs as exempt from taxation.

It is imperative that strong public-private partnerships such as this continue so more private businesses in the state have the opportunity to grow and succeed. I would be happy to answer any questions.

29TH SENATE DISTRICT

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STATE CAPITOL: P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882  
SEN.PETROWSKI@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV • TELEPHONE: (608) 266-2502 • FAX: (608) 282-3569

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Kyle Christianson, Director of Government Affairs *pl*

**DATE:** October 12, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Support for Assembly Bill 575

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) supports Assembly Bill 575 (AB 575), relating to the property tax treatment of regional planning commissions (RPCs). RPCs are comprised of counties and municipalities and are created to address physical, social, and economic development challenges within geographic regions.

RPCs have developed unique programs and initiatives to spur private business activity and economic development throughout Wisconsin. The RPC in northwest Wisconsin developed a business incubation network that includes 11 facilities and serves predominantly manufacturers. These manufacturers may be new businesses exploring ways to bring a product to market or an existing business looking to introduce a new product.

Due to the capital-intensive nature of manufacturing, many businesses would be unable to create new products without warehouse space and machinery. The business incubation network offers these critical manufacturing tools on a temporary basis to local businesses looking to bring products from concept to market. Businesses that have used the RPCs incubation network have gone on to acquire \$5 million of vacant/existing manufacturing space and have invested an additional \$10 million in their facilities. This has directly resulted in nearly 500 new jobs with over \$25 million in payroll.

While all facilities owned by RPCs are exempt from property taxes, questions have recently arisen about this exemption as RPCs are not specifically listed in Wis. Stats. 70.11 (2). AB 575 codifies decades of assessment practice and clarifies that all RPCs—subunits of local governments—are property tax exempt. AB 575 ensures RPCs can continue their mission of promoting economic development at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers and private business.

## Testimony on AB575

Thank you Chairman Macco and to the Committee for allowing me to present today,

Wisconsin's Regional Plan Commissions (RPC) were created by executive orders of the Governor from 1959-1973 as prescribed by State Statute. In their 50+ years of operation, no RPC has been taxed on real estate. There are nine RPC's located throughout the State of Wisconsin.

RPC's are municipalities as defined in WI Stat. 66.0301 (1)(a), (text provided below). They serve and are governed as local units of government for the Counties which each RPC represents. They are funded in whole by the Counties they represent by way of a tax levy and grants received from Federal and State programs. If an RPC dissolves, the assets are returned to the local units of government which supplied them, the Counties. (WI Stat. 66.0309 (15), text provided below)

I hereby suggest that there has been an omission in WI Stat. 70.11 (2) (text provided below) in regards to "property exempted from taxation" in which AB575, the bill that we discuss today will remedy. All items in WI Stat. 66.0301 (1)(a) are contained within WI Stat. 70.11 with the exception of Regional Plan Commissions and Mosquito Control Districts. However, RPC's are clearly by definition a "municipality" and local unit of government.

As such per Dept. of Revenue form entitled "State of Wisconsin Property Tax Exemption Request, the instructions clearly state that "Property owned by the Federal, State and Municipal Governments" **"Do not have to file this report."**

Thank you for the chance to testify. It is my request that you pass AB575 as means to amend and provide clarity to an omission in the current Statutes.

Michael T. Kunesh

Commissioner

Bay-Lake Regional Plan Commission

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

#### 66.0301 Intergovernmental cooperation.

(1)

- (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) and (c), in this section "municipality" means the state or any department or agency thereof, or any city, village, town, county, or school district, the opportunity schools and partnership programs under subch. IX of ch. 115 and subch. II of ch. 119, the superintendent of schools opportunity schools and partnership program under s. 119.33, or any public library system, public inland

lake protection and rehabilitation district, sanitary district, farm drainage district, metropolitan sewerage district, sewer utility district, solid waste management system created under s. 59.70 (2), local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229, local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229, local professional football stadium district created under subch. IV of ch. 229, local cultural arts district created under subch. V of ch. 229, long-term care district under s. 46.2895, water utility district, mosquito control district, municipal electric company, county or city transit commission, commission created by contract under this section, taxation district, regional planning commission, housing authority created under s. 66.1201, redevelopment authority created under s. 66.1333, community development authority created under s. 66.1335, or city-county health department.

#### **66.0309 Creation, organization, powers and duties of regional planning commissions.**

(15) DISSOLUTION OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS. Upon receipt of certified copies of resolutions recommending the dissolution of a regional planning commission adopted by the governing bodies of a majority of the local units in the region, including the county board of any county, part or all of which is within the region, and upon a finding that all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them, or that adequate provision has been made for the outstanding indebtedness or unexpended funds, the governor shall issue a certificate of dissolution of the commission which shall then cease to exist.

#### **70.11 Property exempted from taxation.**

(2) MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND PROPERTY OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS, EXCEPTION. Property owned by any county, city, village, town, school district, technical college district, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, metropolitan sewerage district, municipal water district created under s. 198.22, joint local water authority created under s. 66.0823, long-term care district under s. 46.2895 or town sanitary district; lands belonging to cities of any other state used for public parks; land tax-deeded to any county or city before January 2; but any residence located upon property owned by the county for park purposes that is rented out by the county for a nonpark purpose shall not be exempt from taxation. Except as to land acquired under s. 59.84 (2) (d), this exemption shall not apply to land conveyed after August 17, 1961, to any such governmental unit or for its benefit while the grantor or others for his or her benefit are permitted to occupy the land or part thereof in consideration for the conveyance. Leasing the property exempt under this subsection, regardless of the lessee and the use of the leasehold income, does not render that property taxable.



*Start here.*

# Village of Grantsburg

316 South Brad Street  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

Date: October 8, 2021

To: Assembly Ways & Means Committee

From: Sheila Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer

RE: Amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2)

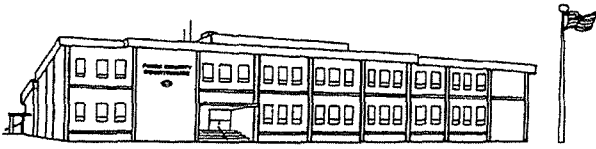
It is my understanding that Assembly Bill 575 relating to property tax exemption for regional planning commissions will be discussed this week.

The Village of Grantsburg strongly encourages and supports amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation.

I would like to attend the Public Hearing being held on Tuesday, but other commitments prevent me from attending and expressing the strong support felt by the Village of Grantsburg.

Please consider this memo in place of my attendance.

Thank you for your consideration



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**ROBERT KOPISCH • County Board Chair • Price County**

126 CHERRY ST • PHILLIPS, WI 54555  
(715)339-4688 • Fax (715)339-3089

To: Wisconsin State Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Re: AB575

Dear Committee,

This letter is to express my regrets for not being able to attend the committee meeting on October 12, 2021. Our County Board has its October Board meeting scheduled on the same day at 9:00 am. Due to the items on the agenda, most specifically the approval of our 2022 budget, as Board Chair, I need to be present at this County Board meeting.

As noted, I am the Price County Board Chair. Also, I am a director on the Wisconsin Counties Association Board and the Vice-Chair of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) Executive Committee. I have served on the latter since 2006 as the representative from Price County.

Regarding AB-575, I wholly support the proposed amendment to this bill regarding regional planning commissions. Per §66.0309, regional planning commissions are created by municipalities which, in our case, are 10 counties. The operation of the regional planning commission is supported by dues paid by these municipalities. Per §66.0309(15), upon dissolution of a planning commission, all unexpended funds are returned to the local units which supplied them. So, the real property of the regional planning commission is thus the property of the local units, the counties, which real property is tax exempt.

I believe it was the intent of §70.11(2) to include regional planning commissions as an exemption from property tax as a municipal entity. The proposed language of AB-575 makes that exemption specific.

I encourage you to vote for this bill. Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Robert D. Kopisch

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Peragon Enterprises, Inc.  
W7041 Woodcraft Road  
Shell Lake, WI 54871

[www.peragon.com](http://www.peragon.com)

August 23, 2021

Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

Dear Mr. Roeser:

Peragon is a manufacturer and direct marketer of truck bed covers. Our signature tonneau cover has been extensively refined to provide lockable security for items stored in the cargo area with the ability to be quickly folded and easily removed when access to the entire truck bed is needed. The covers are precision manufactured from aluminum to provide a high quality, durable product. Completely American made, Peragon tonneau covers have been installed on truck beds throughout the US and Canada.

Peragon began operations in Eastern North Dakota/Western Minnesota with a number of manufacturing processes being outsourced. Consolidation of capabilities became a major objective for Peragon in order to have better control over product quality and delivery timelines. The Northwest Enterprise Center Network provided a "soft landing" while we worked out the logistics for our manufacturing processes and solidified our position in the marketplace. Peragon has since realized substantial growth and acquired our current facility in Shell Lake, WI which houses "state-of-the-art" manufacturing equipment and corporate offices.

Peragon supports modification of WI State statutes to add a specific reference to Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions as entities exempt from property tax. The business development programs provided by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission are valuable resources to continue to improve the economy and surrounding community. It was the strength of those resources and the value proposition of their incubator facilities that attracted Peragon to Wisconsin. We'd like to see that robust tradition continue to help other entrepreneurial ventures grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heath Copp".

Heath Copp  
President



*Advanced Tooling & Manufacturing Solutions*

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August 23, 2021

Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

Dear Mr. Roeser,

Quality Tool Service, Inc. (QTS) specializes in designing and building custom tooling for manufacturing and serves a wide variety of industries. While designing and building weld fixtures is the pinnacle of what we do, we also offer our design and build services for economy fixtures, inspection fixtures, machining fixtures, robotic EoAT, special machines, and more. With capabilities ranging from design to run off, we pride ourselves in creating the highest quality, custom built solutions for our clients. Quality Tool Service has become a valuable member of the Shell Lake community, and proudly offers its services to many local businesses, as well as states all across the US, Canada, and Mexico.

Starting from a garage, QTS growth has been highly capital intensive. Space provided by the Northwest Enterprise Center Network was a valuable resource as an intermediary step on the path to our permanent facility. Having this resource available allowed QTS to preserve working capital for focus on investment in operations, which, resulted in the company growing at a faster rate than owning a building as well. In addition, the Financial and Technical Assistance programs available through the Northwest Regional Planning Commission provided QTS the ability to leverage Bank Financing in meeting our capital requirements.

QTS supports modification of WI State statutes to add a specific reference to Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions as entities exempt from property tax. Availability of the business development programs provided by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission are valuable resources to continue to improve the economy and surrounding community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Hodgett", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gordon Hodgett,  
President/CEO





June 17, 2020

**Mr. Rick Roeser**  
**Northwest Regional Planning Commission**  
**1400 South River Street Spooner, WI 54801**

**Subject: AFSS Growth Plans and Space Requirements**

Dear Mr. Roeser:

As you know, ASRC Federal System Solutions (AFSS, LLC), colloquially known by ASRC Federal and our customers and the corporate parent as "ASRC Badger Works", began its Sustainment Engineering Center effort in your facility just over three years ago. This effort began with one person and the commitment from ASRC Federal to re-establish and rebuild a strong Department of Defense (DoD) Engineering facility in Grantsburg, seeking and hiring much the same highly regarded staff that occupied that space previously under another, similar effort with less long-term commitment. Without the continued strong support by Northwest Regional Planning Commission, this new and much stronger effort would never have gotten off the ground.

AFSS started with that single person in a single unit and has now grown to more than a dozen highly qualified and highly paid professional staff members known for their unique expertise, engineering abilities and agile problem solving capabilities by their customers and have earned a national reputation for excellence and are sought out as Subject Matter Experts in a wide range of technical fields. In that time, space utilization at 355 Industrial Ave., in Grantsburg, WI has grown to 75%+ of the available space, and projected 2020 revenue of more than \$8M. The space occupied by Badger Works houses highly technical and advanced equipment and ASRC Federal has invested more than \$1M so far in specialized rapid prototyping, test and manufacturing equipment, with more capital equipment being acquired regularly to enhance capabilities.

The staff of AFSS includes highly educated and experienced staff most with more than 15 years experience in the rigorous and demanding DoD aviation and weapons platform engineering and development. The average annual wage of the staff here in NW Wisconsin is six figures, far above the average wage for employment in NW Wisconsin, and we continue to bring in the brightest young talent to be mentored by highly experienced and educated engineering and scientific staff.

At the current growth rate of AFSS "Badger Works" and long-term strategic planning (that annual process is being worked on at this time), we project that within two to three years, we will be required to work from significantly expanded facilities. It is, and has been the commitment of the key staff and ASRC Federal to remain in Grantsburg, as witnessed by the community involvement that our staff has shown and continues to show through our local efforts to support local health first responders in and around Burnett County and surrounding counties during the COVID-19 pandemic.



As such, we strongly urge and support expansion of the Grantsburg Industrial Park so that we can continue our growth and stay within the Grantsburg Community. It is our intention and plan to do so, providing we are able to have space to “graduate” into during the next few years as our business and capabilities expand.

Finally, I wish to thank Rick Roeser and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission for having the vision, knowledge and drive to make ASRC System Solutions “Badger Works” a proud member of the Grantsburg community, with all of the encouragement and support that this community brings.

Respectfully,

Eric Peterson  
Chief Scientist  
ASRC Federal System Solutions (AFSS -- "BadgerWorks")  
355 W. Industrial Ave.  
PO Box 307  
Grantsburg, WI 54840  
715-463-1602 (direct) | m: 586-823-3645 | [epeterson@asrcfederal.com](mailto:epeterson@asrcfederal.com)  
[www.ASRCFederal.com](http://www.ASRCFederal.com) | *Customer-Focused. Operationally Excellent*



Jon Bram  
Operations Manager – Grantsburg  
390 Industrial Ave.  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

24-Jun-2020

Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
NWRPC  
1400 S. River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

Dear Mr. Roeser,

I would first like to take this opportunity to send my thanks to you personally along with the NWRPC team for the service through first the leasing of the building located at 380 Industrial Avenue followed by the purchase in 2018. This space was essential to the growth of Kleiss Gears Inc, now Victrex.

Upon purchase of the additional space, Victrex has now made a substantial investment to enable significant business growth. We have already increased our labor force by nearly 50% and expect similar growth soon.

As we continue to grow our business, I encourage you to continue your work in Grantsburg through improvements to the land and expansion of the Industrial Park. I believe this is a critical factor in attracting and retaining the labor force necessary to support our development plans and further improve the surrounding community.

Sincerely,

Jon Bram  
Operations Manager – Grantsburg  
715-431-0068

**Victrex**  
390 Industrial Avenue Grantsburg, WI, USA 54840  
Tel: (715) 598 4486 / Fax: (715) 513 9842  
[www.victrex.com](http://www.victrex.com)

Victrex is the trading name of Kleiss Gears Inc.



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

**NWRPC**

*keeping your future as our focus*

*Serving communities within and counties of  
ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT,  
DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER,  
TAYLOR, & WASHBURN*

*And the Tribal Nations of  
BAD RIVER, LAC COURTE ORIELLES, LAC DU  
FLAMBEAU, RED CLIFF, & ST. CROIX*

**RESOLUTION 21-02**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERANCE IN WIS. STAT. § 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED BY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES**

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the "physical, social and economic development of the region", which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14), and

WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that "all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them" pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint "districts" of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: "regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. § 66.0309", and



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

# NWRPC

*keeping your future as our focus*

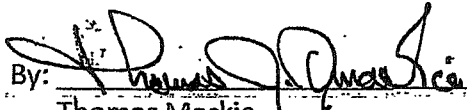
Serving communities within and counties of  
ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT,  
DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER,  
TAYLOR, & WASHBURN

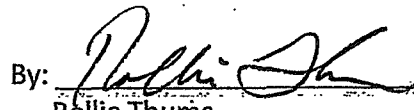
And the Tribal Nations of  
BAD RIVER, LAC COURTE ORIELLES, LAC DU  
FLAMBEAU, RED CLIFF, & ST. CROIX

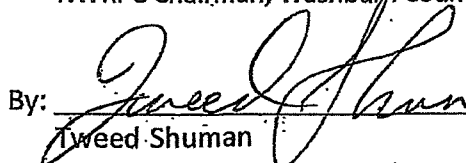
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Northwest Regional Planning Commission strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

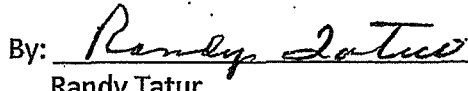
BE ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, members of the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate representing the NWRPC Region, and the members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

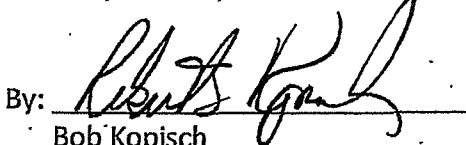
Executed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021

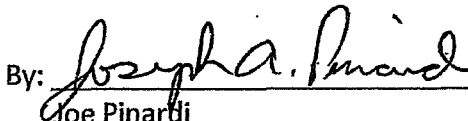
By:   
Thomas Mackie  
NWRPC Chairman, Washburn County Member

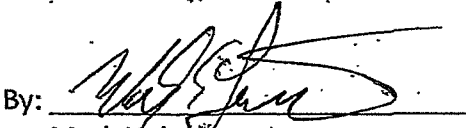
By:   
Rollie Thums  
Taylor County NWRPC Member

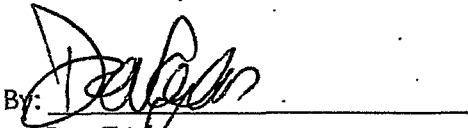
By:   
Tweed Shuman  
Sawyer County NWRPC Member


By:   
Randy Tatur  
Rusk County NWRPC Member

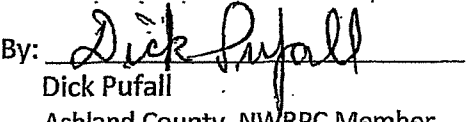
By:   
Bob Kopisch  
Price County, NWRPC Member

By:   
Joe Pinardi  
Iron County, NWRPC Member

By:   
Mark Liebaert  
Douglas County, NWRPC Member

By:   
Don Taylor  
Burnett County, NWRPC Member

By:   
Jim Crahdall  
Bayfield County, NWRPC Member

By:   
Dick Pufall  
Ashland County, NWRPC Member

RESOLUTION R05-2021-1387

IN SUPPORT OF  
ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN WIS. STAT. § 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED  
BY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY  
TAXES

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14), and

WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint “districts” of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2), and

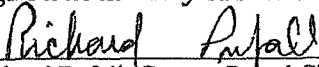
WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: “regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309”, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ashland County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

BE ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator(s) Bewley, Representative(s) Meyers, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

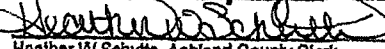
Signed at the City of Ashland, Wisconsin on this 20th, day of July, 2021.

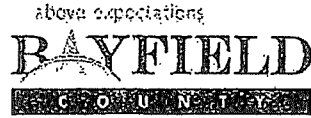
  
Richard Pufall, County Board Chair

  
Heather Schutte, Ashland County Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, correct, and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly passed by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors of the County of Ashland on the 20 day of July, 2021 and that said resolution has not been repealed or amended, and is now in full force and effect.

Dated this 20 day of July, 2021  
  
Heather W Schutte, Ashland County Clerk



# Resolution

No. 2021-42

## Adding a Specific Reference in Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from Real Property Taxes

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the "physical, social and economic development of the region", which may include holding title to real property for such purposes; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14); *and*,

**WHEREAS**, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that "all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them" pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15); *and*,

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint "districts" of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2); *and*,

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: "regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309"; *and*,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Bayfield County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation; *and*,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator Bewley, Representative Meyers, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

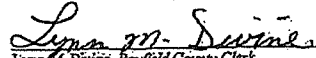


By Action of the:  
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

  
Dennis M. Pocernich, Chair

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
                                  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD )

I, Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2021-42, Volume 29, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

  
Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*

**RESOLUTION # 2021-15**

**In Support of Adding a Specific Reference in Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from Real Property Taxes**

1 To the Honorable members of the Burnett County Board of Supervisors;

2

3 WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0309 by the  
4 Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of counties and other  
5 municipalities located within their defined geographical area; and

6

7 WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the  
8 “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to  
9 real property for such purposes; and

10

11 WHEREAS, member counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the  
12 purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0309(14); and

13

14 WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding  
15 indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local  
16 units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0309(15); and

17

18 WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for  
19 the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them; and

20

21 WHEREAS, all real property, including real property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning  
22 Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. §70.11 for the purpose of obtaining  
23 property tax exempt status; and

24

25 WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) specifically references other joint “districts” of  
26 communities, such as joint water authorities created under §66.0823, but not specifically  
27 planning commissions created under §66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning  
28 commissions qualify for exemption under §70.11(2); and

29 WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its  
30 assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.

31 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat.  
32 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning  
33 Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: **“regional planning commissions  
34 created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309”**; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Burnett County strongly encourages and supports the State  
36 Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional  
37 Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation; and

38

39 BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties  
40 Association, Senator Janet Bewley, Senator Rob Stafsholt, Representative Dave Armstrong,

**RESOLUTION # 2021-15**


**In Support of Adding a Specific Reference in Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from Real Property Taxes**

1 Representative Nick Milroy, Representative Gae Magnafici and the other members of the  
2 Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

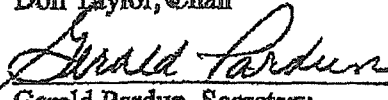
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4 Respectfully submitted and recommended for adoption by the Administration Committee.  
5 Signed and dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

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7  
8 

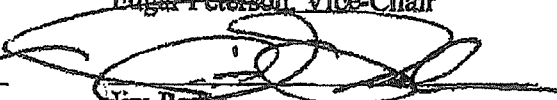
9  
10 Don Taylor, Chair



Edgar Peterson, Vice-Chair

11 

12 Gerald Pardun, Secretary



Jim Padon

13 

14 Donald Chell



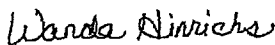
Gary Lundberg

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16 

17 Christopher Sybers

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28  
29 State of Wisconsin  
30 County of Burnett

31  
32 I, Wanda Hinrichs, the duly elected and qualified County Clerk in and for Burnett County, do  
33 hereby certify that the attached resolution 2021-15 In Support of Adding a Specific Reference in  
34 Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from  
35 Real Property Taxes, was adopted by the Burnett County Board of Supervisors at a legally  
36 assembled meeting at which a quorum was present and acted throughout. The date of passage  
37 was May 20, 2021.

38  
39 

40  
41 Wanda Hinrichs,  
42 Burnett County Clerk

**RESOLUTION #16-21  
RESOLUTION BY SUPERVISORS LIEBAERT AND  
POMUSH**

Subject: Wisconsin Statutes Reference for Property Owned by  
Regional Planning Commissions as Tax Exempt

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of counties and other municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the "physical, social and economic development of the region", which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, member counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 (14), and

WHEREAS, dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that "all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them" pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 (15), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

WHEREAS, all real property, including real property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. 70.11 (2) specifically references other joint "districts" of communities, such as joint water authorities created under 66.0823 but not specifically planning commissions created under 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under 70.11 (2), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Pomush		
2. Bong		
3. Certa-Werner		
4. Clark		
5. Baker		
6. Leino		
7. Glazman		
8. Raunio		
9. Jaques		
10. Peterson		
11. McGillis		
12. Lear		
13. Allen		
14. Ryan		
15. Hendrickson		
16. Luostari		
17. Liebaert		
18. Moen		
19. Long		
20. Borgeson		
21. Bergman		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____		
Passed _____ X _____ Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 8-20-20		

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Pomush		
2. Bong		
3. Certa-Werner		
4. Clark		
5. Baker		
6. Leino		
7. Glazman		
8. Raunio		
9. Jaques		
10. Peterson		
11. McGillis		
12. Lear		
13. Allen		
14. Ryan		
15. Hendrickson		
16. Luostari		
17. Liebaert		
18. Moen		
19. Long		
20. Borgeson		
21. Bergman		
Roll:		
Ayes	_____	
Noes	_____	
Absent	_____	
Abstain	_____	
Passed	_____ X _____	
Lost	_____	
Refer	_____	
Amend	_____	
Other	_____	
Rev. 8-20-20		

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11 (2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: "regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Douglas County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. 70.11 (2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator Janet Bewley, Representatives Nick Milroy and Beth Meyers, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

(Fiscal Note: None)

ACTION: Motion by Pomush, second Hendrickson, to adopt. Motion carried.

1050

RESOLUTION 3009

IN SUPPORT OF ADDING  
A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN WIS. STAT. § 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED BY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the "physical, social and economic development of the region", which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14), and

WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that "all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them" pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint "districts" of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: "regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Iron County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

BE ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator(s) Bentley, Representative(s) Meyer, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

Executed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

By: Joseph A. Pirard

Title: Board Chairman

Resolution 18-21

In Support of Adding a Specific Reference in Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from Real Property Taxes

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and Municipalities located within their defined geographical area; and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the "physical, social and economic development of the region", which may include holding title to real property for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14); and

WHEREAS, Dissolution of a Regional Planning Commission would require that "all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local unit which supplied them" pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15); and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them; and

WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status; and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint "districts" of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2); and

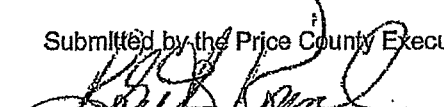
WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: "regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. § 66.0309"; and

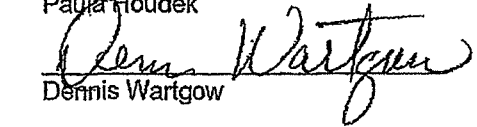
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

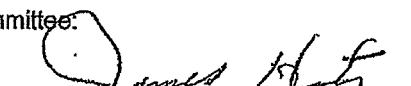
BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, members of the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate representing the NWRPC region, and the member counties of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.


Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee:

  
Robert D. Kopisch, Chair

  
Paula Houdek

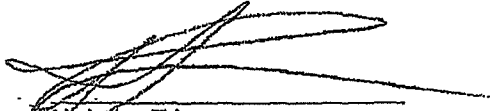
  
Dennis Wartgow

  
James Hintz

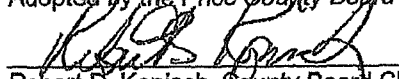
  
Larry Palecek

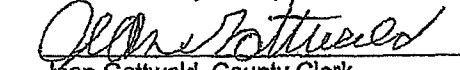


Reviewed by County Administrator:

  
Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of May 2021.

  
Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair

  
Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For: 13 Against: 0



**RUSK COUNTY**

ROLL CALL Board Members	AYE (Yes)	NAY (No)	Abstain/Excused
1. TERRY DUSELL			
2. JERRY BILLER			
3. ALAN RATHSACK			
4. TONY HAUSER			
5. TIMOTHY MILLER			
6. ROBERT STOUT			
7. RANDY TATUR			
8. LYLE LIEFFRING			
9. BILL MCBAIN			
10. KEN PEDERSEN			
11. PHIL SCHNEIDER			
12. JIM MEYER			
13. MARK SCHMITT			
14. LISA DOBROWOLSKI			
15. TOM HANSON			
16. JOSH UNTERSCHUETZ			
17. DAVE WILLINGHAM			
18. MICHAEL HRABAN			
19. KEN BROWN			
YB BECCA STRICKLEN			
YB MEGAN VANDOORN			
TOTAL			

**BOARD ACTION**

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

---

Motion to Approve: Tatur Adopted  Defeated

1st Tatur 2nd Hanson

No: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ Exo: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Finance Director

**FISCAL IMPACT:** (Note if there is any fiscal impact or not)

**Certification:**

I, Connie Meyer, Clerk of Rusk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 25 day of May, 2021 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

Connie Meyer  
Connie Meyer  
County Clerk, Rusk County

RESOLUTION # 21-29  
 IN SUPPORT OF ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN  
 WIS. STAT. § 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED BY REGIONAL PLANNING  
 COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1. WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. §  
 2. 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of  
 3. Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and  
 4.  
 5. WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to  
 6. address the "physical, social and economic development of the region", which may  
 7. include holding title to real property for such purposes, and  
 8.  
 9. WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning  
 10. Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §  
 11. 66.0309(14), and  
 12.  
 13. WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that "all  
 14. outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds  
 15. returned to the local units which supplied them" pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15), and  
 16.  
 17. WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and  
 18. created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and  
 19.  
 20. WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional  
 21. Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose  
 22. of obtaining property tax exempt status, and  
 23.  
 24. WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint "districts"  
 25. of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not  
 26. specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to  
 27. whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2), and  
 28.  
 29. WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government  
 30. and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.  
 31.  
 32. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis.  
 33. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning  
 34. Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: "regional planning  
 35. commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309", and  
 36.  
 37. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Rusk County strongly encourages and supports  
 38. the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of  
 39. Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property  
 40. taxation, and  
 41.  
 42. BE ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties  
 43. Association, Senator(s) Petrowski, Representative(s) Edming, and the other members of  
 44. the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Rusk County Finance Committee

Randy Tatur  
Randy Tatur, Chairman

Mike Hraban  
Mike Hraban, Vice Chairman

Tony Hauser  
Tony Hauser

Dave Willingham  
Dave Willingham

Thomas Hanson  
Thomas Hanson

RESOLUTION 2021-72

*Paragraph*

IN SUPPORT OF  
ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN WIS. STAT. § 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED  
BY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY  
TAXES

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14), and

**WHEREAS**, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15), and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

**WHEREAS**, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

**WHEREAS**, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint “districts” of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2), and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government,

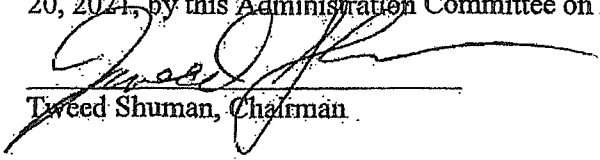
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: “**regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309**”, and

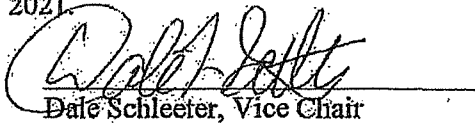
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Sawyer County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

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45 **BE ALSO RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties  
46 Association, Senator(s) Petrowski and Bewley, Representative(s) Edming, and the other  
47 members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

48  
49 Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on May  
50 20, 2021, by this Administration Committee on May 13, 2021.

51   
52 \_\_\_\_\_  
53 Tweed Shuman, Chairman

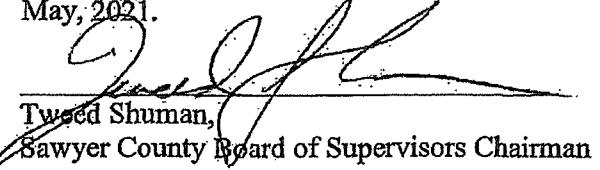
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52 \_\_\_\_\_  
53 Dale Schleeter, Vice Chair

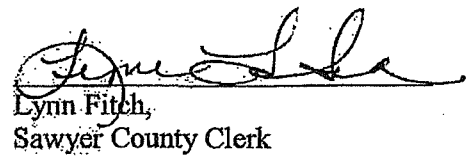
54  
55 \_\_\_\_\_  
56 James Schlender, Supervisor

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55 \_\_\_\_\_  
56 Ron Kinsley, Supervisor

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58 \_\_\_\_\_  
59 Tom Duffy, Supervisor

60  
61 \_\_\_\_\_  
62  
63 This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 20<sup>th</sup> day of  
64 May, 2021.

65   
66 \_\_\_\_\_  
67 Tweed Shuman,  
68 Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chairman

65   
66 \_\_\_\_\_  
67 Lynn Fitch,  
68 Sawyer County Clerk

69



**Northwestern**  
**Wisconsin Electric Company**

Phone (715) 463-5371  
FAX (715) 463-2765

104 South Pine Street • P.O. Box 9 • Grantsburg, WI 54840-0009

August 23, 2021

Mr. Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South. River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

RE: Northwest Enterprise Center Network Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Roeser,

Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company (NWE) has had a long-standing relationship with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) to enhance business development opportunities in Burnett County. The Northwest Enterprise Center Network program has been a vital resource for growing high quality companies within the industrial parks and surrounding areas that NWE provides electric service to. With the pending expansion of the Grantsburg Industrial Park, the Enterprise Center Program will remain a valuable asset to continue development efforts well into the future.

Therefore, NWE strongly encourages and supports the Wisconsin State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Richards', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

John Richards,  
President



# Village of Grantsburg

316 South Brad Street  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

August 23, 2021

Mr. Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South. River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

RE: Legislation Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Roeser,

The Village of Grantsburg, WI has had a long-standing partnership with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) for enhancing business development opportunities in the Village of Grantsburg, WI. The Northwest Enterprise Center Network program has been a vital resource for growing high quality companies within the industrial park and will remain a valuable asset to continue our development efforts in the future.

The Grantsburg Village Board reaffirmed the tax-exempt status of the Northwest Enterprise Center Network facilities that are located within the Village upon consideration of extensive evidence presented to the Board earlier this year. The Village incurred significant expenses relative to securing legal counsel and allocation of staff time in following the formal process provided by existing state statute. It's the desire of the Village of Grantsburg to avoid making similar expenditures that may occur again in the future if this issue is not remedied at the State level.

Therefore, the Village of Grantsburg strongly encourages and supports the Wisconsin State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation.

Sincerely,

Sheila Meyer,  
Clerk/Treasurer

Grantsburg Industrial Development Corporation  
PO Box 9  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

August 23, 2021

Mr. Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South. River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

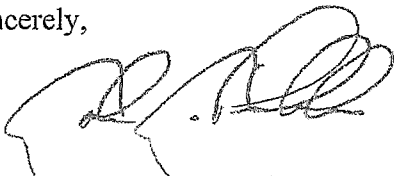
RE: Northwest Enterprise Center Network Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Roeser,

The Grantsburg Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) has had a long-standing relationship with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) to enhance business development opportunities in the Village of Grantsburg, WI. The Northwest Enterprise Center Network program has been a vital resource for growing high quality companies within the industrial park and surrounding area. With the pending expansion of our Industrial Park, the Enterprise Center Program will remain a valuable asset to continue our development efforts well into the future.

Therefore, the Grantsburg Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) strongly encourages and supports the Wisconsin State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Richards", written over a faint, illegible stamp or background.

John Richards,  
President

# City of Shell Lake

P.O. Box 520  
Shell Lake, Wisconsin 54871  
(715) 468-7679 Fax (715) 468-7638



August 23, 2021

Mr. Rick Roeser  
Business Development Specialist  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South. River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801


RE: Legislation Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Roeser,

Although the Northwest Enterprise Center Network program does not have a physical presence of a Business Incubator facility located in the City of Shell Lake at this time, the community has benefitted by the graduation and location of several companies such as Exact Tool, Peragon Truck Bed Covers and Quality Tool Service in the City's Industrial Park and surrounding area. The program has been a vital resource for growing high quality companies. In addition, the business development programs available through the Northwest Regional Planning Commission will remain a valuable asset to continue our future development efforts in the more rural areas of Wisconsin.

Therefore, the City of Shell Lake strongly encourages and supports the Wisconsin State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation.

Sincerely,



Andy Eiche,  
City Administrator





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# GAE MAGNAFICI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

---

TO: Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Representative Gae Magnafici  
DATE: October 12th, 2021  
SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of AB 575

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Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 575 (AB 575), which clarifies the tax-exempt status of regional planning commissions.

Maintaining manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin is a top priority. One way to ensure manufacturing jobs stay in Wisconsin is through regional planning commissions.

Regional planning commissions are an intragovernmental cooperation whose duties are written in law. The commissions are made up by member counties and are granted broad powers to partake in the region's crucial economic development. Some planning commissions, such as the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), provide services to existing and new businesses. The NWRPC has directly aided in the creation of high paying jobs through an innovative program where they lease manufacturing facilities to both startups and existing businesses.

As a co-op between local governments, the NWRPC is exempt from property taxes. However, state law does not explicitly say they are tax exempt. AB 575 clarifies regional planning commissions are tax-exempt.

Thank you to Senator Petrowski for co-authoring this bill, and thank you to the Wisconsin Counties Association for supporting our regional planning commissions by advocating for their tax-exempt status. I'm happy to take any questions.

Thank you. I hope you will support this important bill. I am happy to take any questions.

# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
Telephone: 715-849-5510 Fax: 715-849-5110  
Web Page: [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org) Email: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

November 11, 2021

Subject: Real Estate Tax Exemption

To Whom it May Concern:

This correspondence is being sent regarding any real estate owned by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) as of October 1, 2021. The NCWRPC did not own property prior to October 1, 2021 and does not own any property as of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Lawrence", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director



20 S. Court St.  
Platteville WI 53818  
p: 608.342.1636 • f: 608.342.1220  
e: [info@swwrpc.org](mailto:info@swwrpc.org)  
[www.swwrpc.org](http://www.swwrpc.org)

November 9, 2021

RE: Real Estate Tax Exemption Request

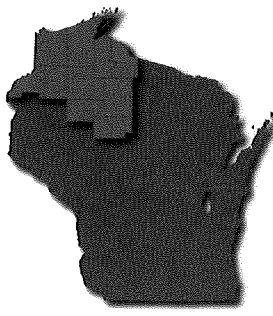
To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is being sent regarding any real estate owned by the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) as of October 1, 2021. SWWRPC did not own any property prior to October 1, 2021 and does not own any property as of the date of his letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Maggied".

Troy Maggied, Executive Direct  
Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

**NWRPC**

*keeping your future as our focus*

Serving communities within and counties of  
ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT,  
DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER,  
TAYLOR, & WASHBURN

And the Tribal Nations of  
BAD RIVER, LAC COURTE ORIELLES, LAC DU  
FLAMBEAU, RED CLIFF, & ST. CROIX

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission Property Ownership as of October 1, 2021.**

Office Building	1400 South River Street, Spooner, WI 54801
Business Enterprise Center	355 Industrial Ave W., Grantsburg, WI 54840
Business Enterprise Center	365 Industrial Ave W., Grantsburg, WI 54840
Business Enterprise Center (AKA: Listed on Tax Statement as 7490 Iron River Dam Road, Iron River, WI 54847)	68323 Lea Street, Iron River, WI 54847
Business Enterprise Center	540 Jensen Drive, Medford WI 54451
Business Enterprise Center	309 Hickory Hills Lane, Phillips, WI 54555
Business Enterprise Center	7991 First Street, Siren, WI 54872
Business Enterprise Center	1540 South River Street, Spooner, WI 54801
Business Enterprise Center	1580 South River Street, Spooner, WI 54801
Business Enterprise Center (AKA: Changed from original address assignment of 800 Durand, Spooner, WI 54801)	1401 Valley Road, Spooner, WI 54801
Business Enterprise Center	1319 Valley Road, Spooner, WI 54801

Vacant Parcels – City of Spooner, WI – No addresses assigned

65-281-2-38-12-06-5 05-007-017000

65-281-2-39-12-29-4 02-000-004000

65-281-2-39-12-29-4 02-000-005000

65-281-2-39-12-29-4 02-000-006000



November 18, 2021

RE: Real Estate Tax Exemption Request

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is being sent regarding any real estate owned by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as of October 1, 2021. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission does not own any property prior to October 1, 2021 and does not own any property as of the date of his letter.

Sincerely,

*Melissa A. Kraemer Badtke*

Melissa Kraemer Badtke  
Executive Director

November 8, 2021

RE: Real Estate Tax Exemption Request

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is regarding real estate owned by the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission in Brown County, Wisconsin, as of October 1, 2021.

In total, the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission owns one office building. This office building is located at 1861 Nimitz Drive, De Pere, WI and is where the Commission office resides and its business is handled. The Commission purchased the building in October of 2020.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, feel free to contact me at (920) 448-2820, Ext. 102 or by email at [CWojtczak@baylakerpc.org](mailto:CWojtczak@baylakerpc.org).

Best Regards,



Cindy J. Wojtczak  
Executive Director



November 17, 2021

RE: Real Estate Tax Exemption Request

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is being sent regarding any real estate owned by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) as of October 1, 2021. WCWRPC did not own any property prior to October 1, 2021 and does not own any property as of the date of his letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Lynn Nelson', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Lynn Nelson, Executive Director  
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

LN:s

# SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE • PO BOX 1607 • WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1607 • **TELEPHONE (262) 547-6721**  
**FAX (262) 547-1103**

*Serving the Counties of:*

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MILWAUKEE  
OZAUKEE  
RACINE  
WALWORTH  
WASHINGTON  
WAUKESHA



November 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As of October 1, 2021, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission owns the office building located at W239N1812 Rockwood Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188-1113. The parcel number/tax key ID is PWC 0994 990, and the parcel is in the City of Pewaukee in Waukesha County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Muhs".

Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP  
Executive Director

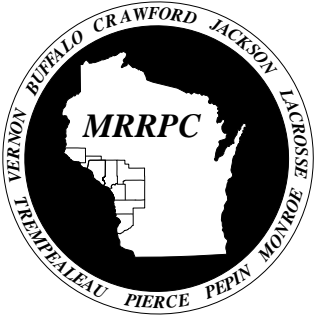
KJM/kjm  
#260112



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

*1707 Main Street, Suite 435  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: (608) 785-9396  
Fax: (608) 785-9394  
Email: [plan@mrrpc.com](mailto:plan@mrrpc.com)  
Website: [mrrpc.com](http://mrrpc.com)*

*James Kuhn, Cashton, WI  
Chairman  
Margaret Baecker Independence, WI  
Vice Chairman  
Vicki Burke, Onalaska, WI  
Secretary & Treasurer  
Dave Bonifas, La Crosse, WI  
Director*



November 10, 2021

RE: Real Estate Tax Exemption Request

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is being sent regarding any real estate owned by the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission as of October 1, 2021. The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission did not own any property prior to October 1, 2021 and does not own any property as of the date of his letter.

Sincerely,



Dave Bonifas  
Executive Director

---

***A Nine County Economic Development District Providing Assistance to Local Governments***

- *Land Use Planning* ▪ *Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances* ▪ *Transportation Planning* ▪ *Economic Development Planning*
- *GIS Mapping* ▪ *Recreation Planning* ▪ *Revolving Loan Fund Administration* ▪ *Grant Writing* ▪ *Socioeconomic Data Dissemination*
- *Assist Local Interests in Responding to State and Federal Programs* ▪ *Advisory Service on Local Planning Issues*
- *Coordinating Agency for Programs and Activities* ▪ *Public Advocacy on Issues Affecting Our Region*