

**CITY OF TWO RIVERS**

**RESOLUTION**

**OPPOSING SENATE BILL 691**

**PERTAINING TO ALLOWING CERTAIN TOWNS TO SELF-DESIGNATE AS “URBAN TOWNS” AND THEREBY :**

- **GAIN THE ABILITY TO DEMAND WATER AND SEWER SERVICES FROM ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES**
- **EXEMPT THEMSELVES FROM EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING AND PLAT REVIEW**
- **BE SUBJECT TO ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY ONLY IN CASES OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**WHEREAS**, strong and sustainable cities and villages need the ability to control their own utility systems, which represent vital infrastructure that has been paid for by their local rate payers; and

**WHEREAS**, strong and sustainable cities and villages need the ability to grow through the annexation of adjacent rural areas, and to not be “hemmed in” by development in those adjacent areas that makes expansion of their municipal boundaries and tax bases more difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin has historically allowed cities and villages the ability to influence land use planning, platting and zoning in adjacent town areas through the extraterritorial plat approval and extraterritorial zoning authority allowed to cities and villages under Wisconsin Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation recently introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature would undermine the ability of incorporated cities and villages to impact what happens around their borders by allowing towns of more than 5,000 population that meet certain criteria to designate themselves as “Urban Towns,” thereby gaining:

- The ability to **REQUIRE** that an adjacent city or village provide water and sewer services beyond its boundaries, to serve customers located in the “urban town;”
- Exemption from extraterritorial plat review and extraterritorial zoning authority of the adjacent city or village;
- Exemption from provisions of Wisconsin law that allow for contested annexations, limiting annexations only to those cases where there is unanimous support of property owners in the area proposed for annexation; and

**WHEREAS**, while there are currently no towns in proximity to the City of Two Rivers or in Manitowoc County that meet the definition of Urban Towns contained in the proposed legislation, the provisions of SB 691 represent profoundly bad public policy and could set a precedent for further legislation that serves to promote growth in town areas while adversely affecting cities and villages all across Wisconsin;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Two Rivers does hereby join with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and with other cities and villages across Wisconsin in opposing Senate Bill 691 or other legislation that serves to lessen the ability of Wisconsin's cities and villages to control their own utility service areas, influence planning and development in areas surrounding their borders, and annex property under the laws that have governed that process for many years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to members of the Senate Transportation and Local Government Committee and to our area legislators, Senator Andre Jacque and Representative Shae Sortwell, urging them to oppose such legislation.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2024.

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Council Member

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Gregory E. Buckley, City Manager