



**RESOLUTION #** 50-2/21

**TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**ITEM #** 0-32

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 29  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 0  
Vote Req: 1  
Other Action: 1

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 9  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 0

**RE: LA CROSSE COUNTY SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING FOR MORE EQUITABLE RETURN OF UTILITY TAX COLLECTIONS TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AS UTILITY AID.**

**WHEREAS**, shared revenue utility aid payments help counties and municipalities pay for services provided to tax-exempt utility property, and

**WHEREAS**, These payments-in-lieu of taxes are also viewed as partial compensation for the air pollution, noise, traffic congestion, property maintenance, emergency services and land use limitations caused by the presence of utility property, and

**WHEREAS**, The state has typically retained about eighty percent of utility tax collections for use as General Purpose Revenue (GPR), rather than return those dollars to counties and municipalities where the utilities are located, and

**WHEREAS**, In 2019-20, the state collected \$351.4 million in utility taxes, but only returned \$75.6 million to local governments as utility aid, and

**WHEREAS**, Moreover, payments generated through the current utility aid formula aid formula have largely been stagnant, both as a percentage of tax collections and in the actual dollars distributed to counties and municipalities. Stagnant or declining aid results in a burdensome shift in taxes to owners of the remaining taxable property.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby encourages the Governor's budget to include a provision in your 2021-23 budget plan to provide for a fairer, more equitable return of utility tax collections to counties and municipalities as utility aid with an inflationary increase built into the utility aid formula.

**FISCAL NOTE:** No negative fiscal impact to La Crosse County, however there would likely be benefits if the utility formula were revised.

Date: 2/10/21  
Monica Kruse  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Date: 2-10-21  
R.T. Kruse  
**RECORDING CLERK**

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.	_____	<u>50</u>	_____
Fin. Director	_____	_____	_____
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
Board Chair	_____	_____	_____

Requested By: Monica Kruse  
Date Requested: January 26, 2021  
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 18 Day of February, 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

[Signature]  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk