

-RESOLUTION TO REPEAL STATUTORY PROVISIONS ENACTED IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN 2015-2017 BUDGET CONCERNING SHORELAND ZONING STANDARDS (SECTIONS 1922am-1922L OF 2015 WISCONSIN ACT 55)-

WHEREAS, when acting on the 2015-2017 State Biennial Budget, enacted as 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, the Wisconsin Legislature adopted into law sections 1922am-1922L, resulting in significant changes of the standards for regulation of existing nonconforming structures in shoreland areas, contrary to the adopted standards of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115; and

WHEREAS, sections 1922am-1922L of the 2015-2017 State Biennial Budget, enacted as 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, will prevent the local governmental units charged by the State of Wisconsin with overseeing development within its shorelands from protecting the rights of the property owner, the citizens of the area, and the environment in a fair and equitable manner; and

WHEREAS, sections 1922am-1922L of the 2015-2017 State Biennial Budget, enacted as 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 will result in unchecked development along our shorelines which will cause irreparable harm to the water quality of our county, result in a drop in property values which in turn will damage the economy of our county, and promote harm to the environment by contributing to the degradation of our surface waters and ultimately the ground water of our county and the state.

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have adopted Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115 and updated it periodically after public input and review; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has been enforcing the minimum standards of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115 since its inception in the late 1960s and has accumulated considerable experience while working with the various incarnations of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115 over many years and, furthermore, has noted during these many years that the current laws have protected the water quality in Eau Claire County and, at the same time, have protected property values, the county's wildlife and fisheries habitat and the natural scenic beauty of Eau Claire County's shorelands, and, at the same time, provided flexibility to property owners in development of their property; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has 18 lakes, 161 miles of trout streams along with 40 miles of shoreline along the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers that are pressured with both new development and redevelopment of existing structures; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County Board members conclude that the water quality of those water bodies within our county would suffer if development is not regulated to the benefit of both the property owner and the water body whose shorelines are proposed for development as it currently is in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County feels strongly that counties should be able to enforce more than the minimum standards to protect their unique resources; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County feels that the minimum standards should not be changed without due consideration by the entire legislature, the Natural Resources Board, and the public; and

WHEREAS, state organizations including the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin County Code Administrators, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association and Wisconsin County Planning and Zoning Directors have gone on record supporting the repeal of the statutory provisions created in the 2015-2017 Budget Bill, that concern the regulation of shorelands, specifically found in Sections 1992am through 1922L of 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 and request that any amendments be addressed through the normal legislative process to allow for important input from the general public regarding managing development activity around our state waterways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors that it hereby requests that the State of Wisconsin repeal Sections 1922am-1922L of the 2015-2017 State Biennial Budget, enacted as 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, and retain the current provisions of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115, and requests that any amendments to the shoreland zoning provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes be made through the normal legislative process to allow for open public discussion and input.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to members of the State's Joint Finance Committee, to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, state senators and representatives serving Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

ADOPTED: November 3, 2015

STATE OF WISCONSIN

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COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE

I, Janet K. Loomis, County Clerk in and for said county, do HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on November 3, 2015.



Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk