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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Dimitrijevic, Broderick, and Haas to increase the adoption of solar energy by Milwaukee County government, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, General Mitchell International Airport would benefit from having an independent consultant conduct a solar feasibility study, including the possible construction of a "solar farm," that analyzes cost/benefit factors while abiding by regulations promulgated by the Federal Aviation Administration; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to reducing its substantial energy use and costs, protecting Wisconsin's natural resources, and supporting local economic activity and job growth; and

WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps support Wisconsin's growing solar industry, thus promoting local and regional economic activity and job growth; and

WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps build on Milwaukee County's rich history of environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps protect Wisconsin's natural resources and advances the energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions of Milwaukee County Resolution File No. 07-111, the "Green Print" initiative; and

WHEREAS, adopting solar energy supports Wisconsin's goal of ten percent renewable electricity by 2015; and

WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps reduce Milwaukee County's dependence on imported energy sources and provides a hedge against its rising utility costs; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2014, Milwaukee County has installed nine solar energy systems that collectively generate enough energy to power ten homes for a year; and

WHEREAS, other municipal governments in Wisconsin and the Midwest are significantly increasing their adoption of solar energy, including:

- 40 • City of Monona, Wisconsin: Installing 156 kilowatts of solar photovoltaic (PV)
- 41 panels on the rooftops of four municipal facilities
- 42 • City of Dubuque, Iowa: Large rooftop PV system generates over 200,000 kilowatt-
- 43 hours of electricity per year
- 44 • Indianapolis Airport Authority, Indiana: Collecting \$315,000 per year for the lease
- 45 of a new privately developed 75-acre solar farm

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47 ; and

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49 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy is becoming more economically viable in
50 Wisconsin, with the average cost of solar energy systems decreasing thirty -four percent
51 from 2012 to 2013; and

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53 WHEREAS, the Airport Director has the authority under State law to enter into a
54 professional services contract with a renewable energy consultant in an amount up to
55 \$100,000 without further approval by the County Board; and

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57 WHEREAS, innovative leasing arrangements and financing models can further
58 reduce the up-front costs of solar energy systems; and

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60 WHEREAS, reducing Milwaukee County’s substantial utility costs and promoting
61 efficient energy use in the State’s largest metropolitan area is a matter of local concern
62 to Milwaukee County and its taxpayers; now, therefore,

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64 BE IT RESOLVED, it is the declared policy of Milwaukee County to increase its
65 adoption of solar energy when cost effective and beneficial to County residents; and

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67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Mitchell International Airport Director
68 shall take steps to retain an independent solar energy consultant to explore the
69 potential for implementing solar energy systems, including a solar farm, on Airport
70 buildings and/or property; and

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72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Sustainability shall develop a
73 process for other applicable County Departments to conduct professional solar energy
74 site assessments so that areas in addition to the Airport can be identified; and

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76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the professional assessments should report on the
77 solar energy generation potential of applicable large County-owned rooftops and
78 underused ground areas and report the years needed to recapture a return on
79 investment based on each site’s hypothetical solar energy generation; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Airport Director and the Office of Sustainability shall provide a report to the County Board by the ~~April~~ May 2014 meeting cycle that outlines the steps that will be taken to examine and implement solar energy opportunities at the Airport and on other County-owned properties.