



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

*Milwaukee County*

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: November 13, 2012

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 12-759 on a partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding between Milwaukee County and Emerald Cities Collaborative

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I am vetoing County Board File No. 12-759 on a partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding between Milwaukee County and Emerald Cities Collaborative pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on November 1, 2012 establishing a partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding between Milwaukee County and Emerald Cities Collaborative to help promote "green" programming in the metropolitan area.

I strongly support making our County buildings as energy efficient and environmentally sustainable as possible. However, I am vetoing this resolution because it and the MOU present a number of problems for the taxpayers of Milwaukee County.

The MOU has not been vetted by Corporation Counsel, the Comptroller or DAS Fiscal. I am uncomfortable moving forward without this due diligence that protects the County and its interests.

While the resolution paints this agreement as a win, win – the text of the actual MOU is unclear as to its objectives. The MOU would lock Milwaukee County into having all future "green" projects governed by a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA). Entering into such an open-ended agreement is not clearly in Milwaukee County's best interests. While I support union and local workers, the relationship between job creation and the goal of improving the County's sustainability is unclear. Lastly, I am concerned that this MOU effectively ties the hands of our new Sustainability Director.

I encourage the Board to sustain this veto.