



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: July 9, 2013

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 13-439 authorizing an amended development agreement with UWM Innovation Park, LLC and UWM Real Estate Foundation to develop an extended stay hotel at Innovation Park.

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I am vetoing County Board File No. 13-439 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 an amended resolution on June 20, 2013 that placed illegal and unprecedented wage and sick pay requirements on an extended stay hotel development at Innovation Park, despite the administration's attempts to ensure the Supervisors were explicitly aware that such requirements would jeopardize the deal. In the wake of this vote by the Board, the developer has announced they will not move forward with the project unless the decision is overturned.

I am vetoing this resolution with the hope that the Board will realize that this project moving forward is in the best interest of our community.

The message sent to potential future developers is reflected clearly in response the Innovation Park developer gave to the Business Journal after the Board's vote, "We've just never dealt with something quite to this magnitude. I just don't understand the thought process that went into that. I don't. I've been hearing all of this business for years now about wanting to make government fair. What's fair about this?"

I know Supervisors agree with me that we should do everything we can to treat workers well, as well as create good paying jobs and an attractive business climate. While we might not all agree on the specifics on how exactly to get there, it's clear that imposing requirements at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour that result in pushing businesses away is not the way to do it.

The amended resolution passed by the Board violates state law restrictions on living wage and sick pay. I've attached a legal opinion from Corporation Counsel that was previously shared with you clarifying this point.

I know the Board shares my concern with making sure all resolutions and ordinances that are passed are legal. Consulting Corporation Counsel prior to submitting items will both increase the likelihood that items passed are legal and respect the County's, as well as our staff and partners', effort and reputation.

I urge the Board to sustain this veto and pass the original resolution to get this project back on track.