



SUPPORTING A REALISTIC FEDERAL DEFINITION OF "RURAL"

RUSK COUNTY

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROLL CALL Board Members	AYE (Yes)	NAY (No)	Abstain / Excused
1. ALEC HAMPTON	✓		
2. JERRY BILLER	✓		
3. STACY ZIMMER <i>Kathy</i>	✓		
4. JOHN MOORE	✓		
5. TERRY WEDWICK	✓		
6. SHERRY WALLACE	VACANT		
7. SUZANNE VOHS	✓		
8. TOM CUDO	✓		
9. PHIL UNTERSCHUETZ	✓		
10. BRIAN COGGINS	✓		
11. PHIL SCHNEIDER	✓		
12. JIM MEYER	✓		
13. KURT GORSEGNER	✓		
14. JOHN KALEPP	✓		
15. TOM HANSON	✓		
16. LOIS GOODE	✓		
17. DAVE WILLINGHAM	✓		
18. MIKE RUSSELL	✓		
19. DAN GUDIS	✓		
TOTAL	18	0	0

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted

1st Moore Defeated

2nd Wedwick

No: 0 Yes: 18 Exc: 0

Reviewed by: _____, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: Sherry Wallace, Finance Director

FISCAL IMPACT: (Note if there is any fiscal impact or not)

N/A

Certification:

I, Connie Meyer, Clerk of Rusk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 22 day of October 2024 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

Connie Meyer
 Connie Meyer
 County Clerk, Rusk County

1 **WHEREAS**, increasing access to federal funding in Rusk County is essential to the long-term sustainability of county and municipal infrastructure; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, the federal Department of Transportation defines "rural area" as an area that is outside an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000. 23 U.S.C. Section 173(a)(2); and,

11 **WHEREAS**, the Rebuilding Rural Roads Act (H.R. 3002) and Protecting Infrastructure Investments for Rural America Act (H.R. 5437) would reduce the definition of rural under the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program from 200,000 to 20,000 giving rural communities a greater opportunity to access these grant funds and aligning with definitions used by the Small Business Administration and USDA Office of Rural Development; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 5437 would not only reduce the definition of rural to 20,000 but would also:

1. Clarify that the goal of the Rural Grant program is to promote economic development in rural areas, as well as improve the quality of life for citizens who live in them;
2. Allow the grant to be used for common road, bridge, highway, or tunnel projects, expanding the eligibility for more projects in rural areas; Strike the minimum project amount of \$25M, considering that a most projects in rural areas are under this amount;
3. Lower the cost-share burden for communities with populations less than 5,000, increasing the likelihood projects in these communities can be completed in a timely manner; and,
4. Establish a set-aside of at least 5% of funding under the program to go to communities of less than 5,000 in population, ensuring these communities receive federal assistance for their infrastructure needs.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors that it supports the passage of the Rebuilding Rural Roads Act (H.R. 3002) and Protecting Infrastructure Investments for Rural America Act (H.R. 5437); and,

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Counties Association to support the passage of the Rebuilding Rural Roads Act (H.R. 3002) and Protecting Infrastructure Investments for Rural America Act (H.R. 5437); and,

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rusk County Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Tom Tiffany, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

SUBMITTED BY:
 John Kalepp, County Board Chair

John Kalepp