

RESOLUTION 2026-F

A Resolution Urging Reform of the Population Cap on Utility Aid under Wis. Stat. § 79.04 to Ensure Fair Compensation for Host Communities

WHEREAS, the Town of Eden, Iowa County, Wisconsin, is a small rural municipality with a population of approximately 330–340 that hosts substantial tax-exempt utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, under Wis. Stat. § 79.04, the Town of Eden receives utility aid to compensate for the loss of local property tax revenue on utility property that serves the broader region and state; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Original Estimate from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue shows that the Town of Eden’s calculated base utility aid subtotal was limited by the statutory population cap, resulting in an annual reduction of **\$82,007.69** in base aid; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Eden is already at the population cap on its base utility aid components, and this cap arbitrarily limits compensation to \$425 per resident regardless of the actual value or capacity of utility property hosted; and

WHEREAS, the Badger Hollow Wind Project includes one wind turbine to be located in the Town of Eden; and

WHEREAS, because the Town is already at the population cap, the new turbine is projected to generate only approximately **\$9,000 per year** in new utility aid to the Town (primarily from the exempt alternative energy incentive), with the megawatt-based payment component providing little to no additional revenue due to the existing cap; and

WHEREAS, this limited new revenue of approximately \$9,000 per year is insufficient to offset the ongoing annual reduction of \$82,007.69 caused by the population cap or to meaningfully support the Town’s highway maintenance, road and culvert repairs, public safety, and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, the population cap creates a structural financial disadvantage for small rural host communities like the Town of Eden, increasing pressure on local property taxpayers and forcing difficult choices between higher taxes and reduced or deferred services; and

WHEREAS, eliminating or significantly reforming the population cap in Wis. Stat. § 79.04 would allow the Town of Eden and similar communities to receive the full calculated base utility aid based on actual hosted utility property, providing fairer and more predictable revenue for critical local infrastructure and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Eden, Iowa County, Wisconsin, that the Town strongly urges the Wisconsin State Legislature to eliminate or substantially reform the per capita population cap under Wis. Stat. § 79.04 so that host municipalities receive the full base utility aid to which they are entitled based on the value and capacity of utility property located within their borders; and

TOWN OF EDEN
Iowa County, Wisconsin

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board supports legislative changes that ensure small rural communities hosting energy infrastructure receive equitable financial compensation without arbitrary per-resident limits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution and the accompanying formal letter to the main candidates for Governor, candidates for State Assembly and State Senate, the Dodgeville Chronicle, and other interested parties.

Adopted this 5th day of October, 2026.



Town Chair

Attest:


Town Clerk