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## Mid-Moraine Municipal Association

An Association For Municipal Improvement

June 25, 2002

Senator Alberta Darling Room 22 South, State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Timothy Hoven Room 17 North, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-8952

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz Room 109 West, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-8952

Representative Michael Lehman Room 103 West, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-8952 Senator Mary E. Panzer Room 305, 100 N. Hamilton St P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Glenn Grothman Room 15 North, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-8952

Representative John LaFave Room 220 North, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-8952

Rep. Sheldon A. Wasserman Room 111 North, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-8952

On behalf of the member communities of the Mid-Moraine Municipal Association, as indicated on the left margin, we submit for your consideration, Resolution Number 02-004 which was approved by unanimous vote at the May 22, 2002 membership meeting. As you are well aware, our communities are extremely concerned about the subject of Revenue Sharing. While we understand the enormity of the budget deficit, we also know the tremendous impact the Governor's budget proposal would have on many of our communities.

It is for that reason that the municipalities represented by the Mid-Moraine Municipal Association offer to work with the State Legislature and the Governor's office to help resolve the budget crisis. At the same time, we are asking that the State assist the communities by eliminating cost raising mandates established by the state and stopping the increasing number of new tax exemptions that appear annually in the state budget.

Surely, by working together, we can address the budget dilemma without damaging the communities that provide the services needed and desired by our common constituents.

Thank you for your continued concern for the communities you represent.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Pugh

Executive Director: Ronald W. Pugh

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## RESOLUTION NUMBER 02-004 PARTICIPATION IN SOLVING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN'S BUDGET CRISIS

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin faces a critical long term budget crisis and it is in the best interests of all Wisconsin citizens to have the crisis solved in a fiscally responsible manner including the elimination of any structural deficits; and

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Thiensville West Bend WHEREAS, it has been documented that the elected and appointed officials of cities and villages have been operating in a fiscally responsible manner and are not the cause of the State's budgetary problems but that these officials are willing to be part of the solution; and

WHEREAS, State Shared Revenue funds are a critical part of the revenue stream of many communities particularly those with a low tax base for providing essential services; and

WHEREAS, distortion of the true facts occur when Schools are included in references to aid provided to Local Governments but are excluded from any budgetary adjustments; and

WHEREAS, State Statutes arbitrarily increase the costs that local governments incur while carrying out their capitol projects and operating functions through unfunded mandates; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the member communities of the Mid-Moraine Municipal Association stand ready to work the State Legislative and Executive branches to help solve the State of Wisconsin's budget crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no community's revenue sharing amount should be reduced to a level that precludes the delivery of essential services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State should assist local governments in reducing their costs by freeing them of burdensome State regulations for project bidding, mediation and arbitration, and employee benefits as well as partially funded mandates such as NR-216 and re-cycling; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State should ensure that local government's revenue streams remain in tact by allowing no more property tax exemptions, correcting loop holes in programs such as the farmland use law and protecting other local government revenue sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no budgetary entity such as schools should be exempt from pressures to reduce their costs and that abuses such as funding for expanding kindergarten programs be immediately curtailed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the State delegation representing these communities, the Southeast Wisconsin Municipal Executives, and the League of Municipalities.

John R. Treffert, President

Mid-Moraine Municipal Association

Ronald W. Pugh, Executive Director Mid-Moraine Municipal Association

Executive Director: Ronald W. Pugh

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