

TOWN OF RIVER FALLS

Resolution 2017-B

Opposition to Senate Bill 309 & Assembly Bill 399

WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin requires all Towns to adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan under WSS 66.1001; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 309 & Assembly Bill 399 both call for an amendment to WSS 30.27(3) and to create WSS 30.27 (2)(d) relating to zoning ordinances in the Lower St. Croix Riverway and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, The Town of River Falls adopted Town Zoning in 1998 and the Town Zoning is consistent with the Town of River Falls's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the local government officials who live and reside in the counties and communities are best suited to make determinations as to what zoning is best for their community; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 309 & Assembly Bill 399 both call for an amendment to WSS 30.27(3) and to create WSS 30.27 (2)(d) relating to zoning ordinances in the Lower St. Croix Riverway and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 309 & Assembly Bill 399 both prohibit counties and towns that administer their own zoning from implementing their own zoning codes; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 309 and Assembly Bill 399 are the antithesis of the design our founding fathers who drafted the laws of the state to benefit the state as a whole and who saw it crucial most authority should be at the local level, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 309 & Assembly Bill 399 will negatively impact the Town of River Falls's rural character and impact the quality of life in the lower St. Croix Riverway and surrounding areas by taking zoning control out of the local control; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 309 and Assembly Bill 399 were introduced into the Legislature without any knowledge or advisement by local officials in the towns or counties in whom this property lies and in whom may be affected by the amendment of WSS 30.27 (3) and creation of WSS 30.27(2)(d).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, it is deemed advisable, useful, beneficial, and in the best interest of the people and the beauty, protection and economic impacts of the Lower St. Croix Scenic Riverway and surrounding areas that the Town Board of the Town of River Falls strongly oppose Senate Bill 309 and Assembly Bill 399; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of River Falls is requesting the Legislature reject the notion that the State begin engaging in rezoning of property and instead allow counties and towns to enforce their own zoning ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of River Falls is requesting it is imperative that the state leaders continue their commitment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program and the aesthetic and consequent impacts related to tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of River Falls is strongly opposed to a non-fiscal bill being incorporated into the Budget Bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of River Falls directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Towns Association, our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

ADOPTED: River Falls Town Board Meeting, July 17, 2017