RESOLUTION BY THE RACINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN: 2015-2020

## TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee 7 (M7), the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), and the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership (REP) worked together in 2014 and 2015 to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, which includes the Counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha; and

WHEREAS, the CEDS recommends that economic development efforts focus on strengthening the Region's economy through business exports, workforce development, innovation and entrepreneurship, economic place-making, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced public-private and interagency cooperation; identifies key cluster industries believed to have the best potential for economic growth, expansion, and attraction in Southeastern Wisconsin; and includes an action plan and proposed economic development projects in the Region; and

WHEREAS, in addition to setting forth a strategy for economic growth in the Region, the CEDS is intended to meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA) for such work, thereby buttressing efforts to secure Federal funding for projects in the seven-county Region that have a particular focus and impact on economic development, particularly projects that will benefit economically distressed areas; and

**WHEREAS**, following adoption of the CEDS by the seven County Boards in the Region, SEWRPC would request designation of the Region as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) has recommended that the County Board adopt the CEDS.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

**FIRST:** That the Racine County Board of Supervisors supports the regional economic development strategy set forth in the CEDS and hereby adopts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Wisconsin for the period 2015 through 2020.

**SECOND:** That the Racine County Board of Supervisors supports the formation of an Economic Development District for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region by SEWRPC, with assistance to be provided by the M7 and REP, which would align local, county, and regional economic development efforts to carry out the recommendations of the CEDS.

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