

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-55

RESOLUTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OPPOSING ANY REGIONAL SALES TAX TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW NBA BASKETBALL AND ENTERTAINMENT ARENA AND OR CONVENTION CENTER IN MILWAUKEE

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, there is a growing discussion in Milwaukee for a need to expand the existing convention center and rebuild a new NBA basketball and entertainment arena; and

WHEREAS, the current convention center that opened in 1998 and 2000 has 189,000 square feet of exhibit floor space and was financed with three taxes levied in Milwaukee County – a 3% tax on car rentals, 2% tax on hotel rooms and a 0.25% tax on restaurant food and beverage sales (as well as a 7% room tax that goes to the Wisconsin Center District, which oversees the convention center and Bradley Center), and

WHEREAS, the current home of the Milwaukee Bucks (as well as the Milwaukee Admirals and Marquette Golden Eagles), the BMO Harris Bradley Center, was built in 1988 with a \$90 million donation from Jane and Lloyd Pettit, and later received a \$5 million grant from the state in 2009 and another \$5 million in 2011 for capital improvements, and

WHEREAS, the Miller Park development in 2001 was financed in large part (\$310 million of the \$413.9 million total) by a 0.1% 5-county stadium sales tax, along with other state and local government public financing, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Milwaukee and local business and media organizations have advocated for a regional (multi-county) financing plan to assist in funding a new NBA basketball and entertainment arena, and

WHEREAS, Racine County and the incorporated cities, villages and towns that reside within the county all have their own valued cultural and “quality of life” assets that they manage and budget for annually as their priorities dictate – Reef Point Marina and Racine Zoo along with the many parks, lakes, museums and festivals to name a few, and

WHEREAS, Racine County and the incorporated cities, villages and towns that reside within the county have never lobbied the state to impose a shared tax on the taxpayers that reside outside of Racine County to help support cultural and “quality of life” assets in Racine County, nor has Racine County chosen to impose its discretionary County-wide .05% sales tax on residents and non-residents that live and visit the County, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the Racine County Board of Supervisors hereby formally opposes the imposition of any regional tax whatever on Racine County businesses or residents that would finance the construction of an NBA basketball and entertainment arena and or the development and renovation of the Wisconsin Center convention facility in Milwaukee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the Racine County Board of Supervisors also formally opposes an extension of the Miller Park

4 stadium regional tax in any manner whatever that deviates from the original intended
5 statutory purpose, and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the
7 County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this fully-executed and authorized resolution to
8 Governor Scott Walker, to the Chairman of the Wisconsin Center Board, to the Chairman
9 of the BMO Harris Bradley Center Board, and to all members of the Racine County
10 legislative delegation.

11 Respectfully submitted,

12
13 1st Reading _____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14
15 2nd Reading _____

Peter L. Hansen, Chairman

16
17 BOARD ACTION

18 Adopted _____

Russell A. Clark, Vice Chairman

19 For _____

20 Against _____

21 Absent _____

Robert N. Miller, Secretary

22
23 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

24
25 Prepared by:
26 Corporation Counsel

Mark M. Gleason

Katherine Buske

Ronald Molnar

Kenneth Hall

Q.A. Shakoob, II

Pamela Zenner-Richards

42 **The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of**
43 **Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:**

44 **Approved:** _____

45 **Vetoed:** _____

46
47 **Date:** _____,

48
49
50 _____
James A. Ladwig, County Executive