



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 86178      **Version:** 1      **Name:** Amicus Briefs  
**Type:** Resolution      **Status:** Passed  
**File created:** 11/19/2024      **In control:** COMMON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
**On agenda:** 2/11/2025      **Final action:** 2/11/2025  
**Enactment date:** 2/14/2025      **Enactment #:** RES-25-00089

**Title:** Authorizing the City Attorney, in consultation with the Mayor, to join the City as amicus in any cases related to environmental sustainability, environmental justice, or climate change which promote or impact Madison's policy of being an environmentally sustainable and resilient community where all Madisonians can thrive now and in the future.

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**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/11/2025	1	COMMON COUNCIL	Adopt	Pass
1/28/2025	1	COMMON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER	Pass
1/27/2025	1	SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE	Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Common Council to Adopt	Pass
1/14/2025	1	COMMON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Referred	
1/14/2025	1	COMMON COUNCIL	Referred	
12/5/2024	1	Attorney's Office	Referred for Introduction	

**Fiscal Note**

No City appropriation required.

**Title**

Authorizing the City Attorney, in consultation with the Mayor, to join the City as amicus in any cases related to environmental sustainability, environmental justice, or climate change which promote or impact Madison's policy of being an environmentally sustainable and resilient community where all Madisonians can thrive now and in the future.

**Body**

WHEREAS, in March 2017, the Common Council adopted (RES-17-00213) which called on the City to establish a goal for City of Madison operations and community to reach a goal of 100% renewable energy and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, in March 2019, the Common Council adopted (RES-19-00267) the 100% Renewable Madison Report and set the goal of reaching 100% renewable energy and net zero carbon emissions for City operations by 2030; and

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the Common Council adopted (RES-24-00518) the 2024 Sustainability Plan Update and directed staff to implement the recommendations in the plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Sustainability Plan Update includes actions to cut climate pollution, prepare for and minimize the impacts of climate change, improve environmental quality, advance environmental justice, and ensure the health and wellbeing of all Madisonians; and

WHEREAS, environmental protection, environmental justice, and climate action are also embedded in many other adopted City plans and initiatives, including the Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Open Space Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan, and others; and,

WHEREAS, amicus briefs are filed in court cases by municipalities who are strongly invested in the outcome of cases, but are not themselves party to the cases and amicus briefs can present additional information and context to the legal issue being decided and can be time sensitive and require immediate action; and

WHEREAS, new and ongoing litigation continues to potentially impact climate and environmental policy, and can either significantly assist in or hinder the City of Madison's commitment to being environmentally sustainable and resilient for current and future Madisonians.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Madison Mayor and Common Council affirm their commitment to environmental sustainability and justice and their support of efforts consistent with that commitment through both policy and litigation; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Attorney, in consultation with the Mayor, is authorized to join the City as amicus in cases related to environmental sustainability, environmental justice, or climate change which promote or impact Madison's policy of being an environmentally sustainable and resilient community where all Madisonians can thrive now and in the future.