

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Planning and Development  
Committee  
INITIATED BY



9/9/2022  
DATE DRAFTED

**Supporting the Designation of the Madison Region as an Economic Development District**

**WHEREAS**, Federal funding is available through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the purpose of economic development; and,

**WHEREAS**, the EDA has previously approved a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region, which was developed and facilitated by the Madison Region Economic Partnership; and,

**WHEREAS**, the linkages between Rock County’s economic development planning, programming and related implementation activities and the region created, a well as necessitated, a collaborative relationship; therefore, Rock County was an active participant in that regional CEDS process; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CEDS is a recognized platform and related funding pathway, in combination with an Economic Development District (EDD) designation, to secure EDA funding for eligible projects that have regional implications; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rock County is located within the proposed six-county, South Central Wisconsin Madison Region EDD; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rock County believes this proposed EDD has the potential to facilitate the collective advancement of the region therefrom.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled this 22nd day of September, 2022, hereby supports the designation of the six-county Madison Region as a federally-designated EDD through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s EDA.

FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact in and by itself.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

**Planning & Development Committee**

Planning and Development Committee recommended this resolution by a unanimous approval.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

### Supporting the Designation of the Madison Region as an Economic Development District

For more than 15 years, stakeholders from throughout the Madison Region have been working through a collaborative planning and implementation framework to advance regional economic and workforce development initiatives. The Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP), which has served as the champion for these efforts, facilitated the development of a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A CEDS is an important step toward receiving EDA funding. In 2019, the Madison Region's CEDS was approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

To sustain EDA funding, a geographic area or region must be designated as an federally-designated EDA Economic Development District (EDD). Historically, Wisconsin's EDDs have been affiliated with (or covered by) its nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs); and to date, 59 out of 72 Wisconsin counties are part of an EDD. While Dane County, itself, is covered by the Capitol Area RPC - the six-county region comprising of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk is not part of Wisconsin's RPC network. Establishing an EDD for South Central Wisconsin, particularly in the absence of an official RPC, would increase MadREP's capacity to serve the entire region.

The combination of an approved CEDS, as well as an EDD, creates a value-added platform for information and data sharing; developing collaborative planning and programming; and positioning the region to secure competitive EDA funding. In July 2013, a similar Resolution was approved by the Rock County Board of Supervisors.