

## **Craig, Sondra**

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**From:** Peter Gorski <peter.k.gorski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 3:25 PM  
**To:** ZZ City Clerk External  
**Subject:** Re: Public comment on resolution voting Tuesday night

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I had 1 typo, which I have corrected in bold below.

I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution. As a resident of La Crosse and a parent of two young children, climate change and the instability and dangers it will cause is the number one issue on my mind. We are already locked into significant warming and changing weather patterns that will have severe knock down effects on food supply chains, public health and safety, recreation sports and activities, water access, and much more. The La Crosse community is one which prizes the natural beauty we are fortunate to possess, and it is at serious risk if human society continues on its current path.

These destabilizing events have already caused death via drought, pollution, famine, flooding, and violent conflict over resources. As a community, La Crosse already faces serious flooding issues regularly, and we must act now to mitigate and prevent future flooding. Calling this situation an emergency is very appropriate. We need society as a whole to wake up to the severe crises we are facing.

It is not too late to act to reduce the impacts of warming, and ultimately draw carbon back down from the atmosphere and reverse the changes we have caused. However, it will take an all hands on deck effort and large-scale investment in renewable energy and zero emission alternatives to our current systems. The speed at which we are currently making these changes is far too slow to save most if not all of the planet from being inhospitable and uninhabitable. We must move more quickly to a zero carbon and ultimately negative carbon infrastructure if we hope to avoid systems level collapses.

Not only is climate action the only sane choice when faced with the alternative, but at this point it is also the wiser financial investment for the future economy of La Crosse. Over their lifetime, renewables are far cheaper than fossil fuels, and as these industries scale they will only become more affordable. Fossil fuels are a finite resource, and costs to procure and process them will continue to increase.

Renewables are already a better investment according to many sources. Forbes shows renewables returning seven times that of fossil fuels now, and renewables investments have tripled fossil fuel investment returns over the last decade according to Bloomberg. The only ones who gain from continued fossil fuel use are the small number of companies getting rich by destroying our environment. It is only a matter of time before we make these changes, and the sooner we act, the cheaper it will be as we avoid the costs of impending disasters.

These investments also make our power more locally sourced and more directly controlled by the communities that use these resources. If there is a future, it will be one running on non-fossil fuel energy sources. Investing early into these options will result in better regional job creation and improve the economic outlook as well.

**Leaders in government at all levels have a responsibility to act with the utmost urgency and force to protect the lives of everyone on Earth and secure a habitable planet for future generations. I urge you all to vote in favor of this resolution, and to continue to push forward as climate champions. Thank you for working to better our community.**

On Sat, May 21, 2022 at 3:23 PM Peter Gorski <[peter.k.gorski@gmail.com](mailto:peter.k.gorski@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Good afternoon,

**Please deliver my comments below for the public hearing on the resolution declaring a climate emergency on this Tuesday. I cannot make it in person, but if someone is able to read my comment into the record I would appreciate that as well. Thank you!**

**I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution. As a resident of La Crosse and a parent of two young children, climate change and the instability and dangers it will cause is the number one issue on my mind. We are already locked into significant warming and changing weather patterns that will have severe knock down effects on food supply chains, public health and safety, recreation sports and activities, water access, and much more. The La Crosse community is one which prizes the natural beauty we are fortunate to possess, and it is at serious risk if human society continues on its current path.**

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