

## RESOLUTION

### ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor RJ Sutterlin  
INITIATED BY



1/11/2024  
DATE DRAFTED

#### **Supporting the Evansville Soybean Oilseed Processing and Refinery Project**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin and Rock County have deep and strong agricultural roots, particularly with respect to soybean production; and

**WHEREAS**, research from the Wisconsin Soybean Association, with additional documentation provided by other related agricultural interests, has classified the Badger State as a soybean crushing desert; and

**WHEREAS**, the absence of a large-scale, commercial and modern soybean oilseed processing facility in Wisconsin creates systemic pricing differentials and market access challenges for Wisconsin's soybean growers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Evansville, which has been affectionately referenced as the Soybean Capital of Wisconsin, has been strategically positioning itself for this type of agribusiness investment; and

**WHEREAS**, this positioning has created an opportunity to partner with CHS Inc., a leading global agribusiness and the largest farmer-owned cooperative in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, this partnership is focused on siting a soybean oilseed processing and refinery facility on the City's eastside, which will leverage the road network and the Class I railroad that services the Evansville area and the greater Rock County region; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed facility will have the design capability and capacity to process more than 70 million bushels of soybeans annually; and

**WHEREAS**, this development is forecasted to generate more than \$825 Million in annual, value-added economic impacts to the local, regional and statewide economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and the Joint Review Board have approved the creation of Tax Increment District (TID) #10 to facilitate the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF), which is Wisconsin's most commonly used economic development tool for fostering growth and investment activities; and

**WHEREAS**, but not for TID #10, the proposed soybean processing and refinery project is not economically feasible, due to the extraordinary onsite infrastructure and utility requirements to both the City and CHS; and

**WHEREAS**, the application and use of a TID is subject to state statutes, and there is an equalized taxable property value calculation that creates a 12-percent limitation; and

**WHEREAS**, within three years after this proposed facility is scheduled to begin construction, the new value created in TID #10 is projected to exceed this 12-percent cap; thereby, resulting in a TIF-out status and preventing the City to access and use its TIF tools for other emerging development and investment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, when and where a TIF-ed out status surfaces, communities have approached and received specific exemptions or relief from the Wisconsin Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the specific legislative relief for TID #10 is contained in Assembly Bill 834 and Senate Bill 787, which has local and regional bipartisan support; and

**WHEREAS**, despite this support, there are no guarantees with respect to the timing and the outcomes of legislative processes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 25th day of January, 2024 does hereby formally pledge its strong support for the proposed soybean oilseed processing and refinery project in the City of Evansville; and it respectfully requests the Wisconsin Legislature to approve the requested relief for TID #10; and it also respectfully requests the Governor to sign this important piece of legislation into state law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, County Administration, and/or its designed staff, is hereby authorized and encouraged to convey this support position and to strategically collaborate, when and where appropriate with elected and appointed officials, organizational partners and stakeholders at the local, regional and statewide level to advance the requested legislative relief for the Evansville TID #10.

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:

This is an important agricultural and economic development project for the City of Evansville, the County, the State, and the region. I recommend approval.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

Planning & Development Committee

The Planning and Development Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.