



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Business Services

February 18, 2025

Senator Ron Johnson

United States Senate

328 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson,

I am writing on behalf of the Waunakee Community School District to express our strong support for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and to highlight the ways in which we plan to leverage the funding to further our commitment to clean energy and sustainability.

As the Director of Business Services, I am proud to share that the Waunakee Community School District will be applying for IRA funding to support geothermal and solar energy projects at several of our facilities. Specifically, we are seeking funding for geothermal installations at our newly opened Heritage Elementary School and our new Middle School currently under construction. We also plan to apply for solar energy projects at these two schools, as well as at Waunakee Intermediate School.

The availability of IRA funding played a key role in the decision-making process by our School Board to invest in these innovative and forward-thinking clean energy solutions. As an example, the School Board approved an additional \$1.1 million in project costs to meet the prevailing wage/apprenticeship provisions in the IRA. This investment will allow us to apply for the 30% value of our geothermal system, securing over \$3.9 million. By securing this funding, we are not only taking meaningful steps to reduce our carbon footprint but also investing in energy efficiency that will benefit our students, staff, and the community for generations to come.

www.waunakee.k12.wi.us

We fully support the efforts you have championed to make funding available for projects like ours, and we believe that this investment will have lasting, positive effects on our local communities. By supporting clean energy initiatives, we can create a more sustainable future while also reducing energy costs and contributing to the broader goals of climate action and environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your leadership and for making these crucial resources available to communities like ours. We look forward to the opportunity to apply for IRA funding and to continuing to work toward a greener, more sustainable future for our students and community. We would advocate that other public school districts continue to have the opportunity to apply for IRA funding as currently indicated in the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allie Newton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allie Newton

Director of Business Services

Waunakee Community School District