

Model Resolution: Opposition to the [MariBell / BECI] 765 kV Proposal

Instructions

For town, village, and county boards ready to take a position (unlike the information-request resolution, this one DOES oppose the project — a board should only adopt it if that reflects the board's actual position). Fill every blank, choose the bracketed option that matches your jurisdiction, and delete every bracketed guidance note before adoption. This is the same underlying document the Township of Freeman adopted 2026-04-27 (Crawford County, MariBell) and that the Town of Haney and Town of Utica boards each independently reused for their own adoptions — cleaned up here so any board can fill it in directly instead of copying a neighboring town's paper copy by hand.

Before you start: pick ONE project. MariBell and BECI are two separate proposals with separate developers, separate routes, and separate filing dates — never refer to “the MariBell/BECI line.” If your jurisdiction sits near both routes, adopt two resolutions, not one compound resolution.

	If opposing MariBell	If opposing BECI
Developers	Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland, LLC	Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) — a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission
Route	Marion, Minnesota to Bell Center, Wisconsin	Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line
MISO selection date	announced 2025-05-08	announced 2026-01-06/07

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Resolution Stating the Opposition of the [Town/Village/County] of _____, _____ County, Wisconsin, to the Proposed [MariBell / BECI] 765-Kilovolt Electric Transmission Line Project

WHEREAS, [MariBell:] Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland, LLC, through the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), is proposing the construction of a 765-kilovolt electric transmission line extending from Marion, Minnesota to Bell Center, Wisconsin, commonly referred to as the MariBell Project] / [BECI:] Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) — a joint venture of Transource Energy

and BHE Transmission — is proposing the construction of a 765-kilovolt electric transmission line extending from Bell Center, Wisconsin to the Illinois/Wisconsin state line, commonly referred to as the BECI Project (Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–IL/WI State Line)], and identified as part of MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan, Tranche 2.1; and

WHEREAS, until September 2024, MISO Tranche 2.1 planning maps avoided the Driftless Area, favoring a more northerly route through Xcel Energy territory; in the three months between September and December 2024, a route through the central Driftless Area was adopted instead; and

WHEREAS, the proposed [MariBell / BECI] Project route is intended to traverse areas in _____ County, Wisconsin, including lands within and adjacent to the [Town/Village] of _____; and

WHEREAS, the [Town/Village] of _____ is located within the Driftless Area, a region characterized by steep and fragile topography, karst geology, cold-water streams, productive agricultural lands, extensive timber resources, and landscapes that are unusually sensitive to disturbance from large-scale linear infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, [optional — insert ONE local, verifiable, public-record fact about a specific sensitive area near your jurisdiction, e.g. a designated state riverway, a national wildlife refuge, a documented trout stream, a karst spring inventory — cite the public source. Freeman cited the Upper Mississippi River National Fish & Wildlife Refuge and Pool 9 bald-eagle/tundra-swan habitat (both documented, public-record designations); Richwood cited the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway under Wis. Stat. §§ 30.40–30.49. Do not assert a claim you cannot point to a public source for — delete this WHEREAS entirely if nothing applies]; and

WHEREAS, transmission lines of the 765-kilovolt class require wide permanent easements, tall structures, and ongoing vegetation management that result in substantial ground disturbance and may adversely affect wildlife behavior, nesting success, migratory patterns, and the ecological integrity of protected and sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, the construction and permanent presence of a 765-kilovolt transmission line may result in measurable reductions in property values for affected and adjacent landowners due to visual intrusion, limitations on land use within easements, loss of privacy and rural character, and perceived safety risks; and

WHEREAS, reductions in assessed property values or changes in land classification associated with the proposed transmission corridor may lead to long-term loss of property tax revenue for the [Town/Village] of _____, shifting the tax burden to other residents and constraining the [Town's/Village's] ability to fund essential local services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed [MariBell / BECI] Project would require permanent clearing and perpetual maintenance of a broad transmission right-of-way, resulting in the irreversible loss of productive timberland, forest habitat, and associated ecological, economic, and carbon-sequestration benefits; and

WHEREAS, the scenic bluffslands, river corridors, forested landscapes, and undeveloped rural character of the Driftless Area are essential to tourism, outdoor recreation, and associated local business activity, and the introduction of large-scale transmission infrastructure may substantially diminish tourism appeal and result in long-term economic losses to the [Town/Village] and surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, residents, landowners, and the electorate of the [Town/Village] of _____ have expressed significant concern regarding the cumulative environmental, agricultural, economic, scenic, and property-related impacts associated with the proposed [MariBell / BECI] Project; and

WHEREAS, the [Town/Village] Board has a responsibility to represent the interests, welfare, and expressed concerns of the electorate and to communicate those concerns to state regulatory authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the [Town/Village] Board of _____, _____ County, Wisconsin, on behalf of its electorate, formally states its opposition to the proposed [MariBell / BECI] 765-kilovolt transmission project as currently proposed, due to the exceptional sensitivity of the Driftless Area and the unacceptable potential impacts on wildlife habitat, natural resources, agricultural and timber lands, property values, the [Town's/Village's] tax base, tourism revenues, and overall community character; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [Town/Village] Board respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin give careful and deliberate consideration to the unique environmental, geologic, economic, and cultural characteristics of the Driftless Area and the formal concerns of affected local governments and residents during its review of the [MariBell / BECI] Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official records of the [Town/Village] of _____ and transmitted to:

- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- [MariBell:] Dairyland Power Cooperative] / [BECI:] Midcontinent Grid Solutions; Transource Energy, LLC; BHE Transmission]
- _____ County officials
- [optional: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, if the sensitive-area WHEREAS above cited a DNR-managed resource]
- [optional: your local State Assembly and State Senate representatives — insert names]

- Any other state or regional agencies involved in the review of the [MariBell / BECI] Project

BOARD ACTION: This resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of ____–____ at a duly noticed meeting of the [Town/Village] Board held on _____, 2026.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

[TOWN/VILLAGE] OF _____

_____ **COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Title	Name	Signature	Date
Chair/Chairman			
Supervisor			
Supervisor			
Supervisor			
Clerk			