

**TOWN OF UTICA RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 765KV
HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Utica lies within the nationally recognized Driftless Area, a uniquely fragile landscape defined by steep ridges, karst geology, abundant springs and wetlands, cold-water trout streams, highly erodible soils, rare species and natural communities that are particularly vulnerable to large-scale infrastructure expansion and disturbance; and

WHEREAS, Dairyland Power Cooperative, through the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), is proposing the construction of a 765-kilovolt electric transmission line extending from Marian, Minnesota to Bell Center, Wisconsin, commonly referred to as the MariBell Project (hereinafter "MariBell Project"), and

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line would require a significant expansion of the existing transmission line corridor including a new transmission line corridor requiring extensive clearing, soil disturbance, construction corridors, blasting, and long-term construction corridors and long term maintenance that would fragment habitat, irreversibly damage natural resources, disrupt agricultural lands, cause road damage, and permanently alter the scenic and diverse character of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Utica's agricultural economy depends on productive farmland, livestock operations and farming systems that would be adversely affected by land fragmentation, powerline easement land use restrictions, soil disruption, and impacts to livestock; and

WHEREAS, impacted property owners and residents throughout the Town of Utica would face declines in land value and long-term uncertainty and tourism economy – driven by its scenic beauty, outdoor recreation, trout streams, and rural character would be negatively impacted; and

WHEREAS, residents and landowners of the Town of Utica have expressed significant concern regarding the largest alternating current transmission voltage proposed in Wisconsin and potential cumulative negative impacts on human health, electromagnetic fields exposure, corona discharge, noise, disruption of county-wide emergency communications systems, as well as generational, environmental, agricultural, economic, scenic, cultural and property-related impacts associated with the proposed MariBell Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Utica, Crawford County Wisconsin, Town Board formally and unequivocally opposes the proposed high-voltage

transmission line within Crawford County, and the Driftless Area, finding that this region is not suitable for such development and that the size and scale of the project poses substantial risks to

public health, safety, and welfare, as well as to the environmental integrity, agricultural viability, economic stability, and cultural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official records of the Town of Utica and transmitted to:

- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; Governor of Wisconsin
- Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Crawford County Officials; Local State Assembly and State Senate Representation
- Any other state or regional agencies involved in the review of the MariBell Project

The Town of **UTICA**, in Crawford County, WI hereby approves the resolution **ADOPTED** this day of 20th day of July 2026.

Adopted by Jack Wedderburn (chair)

Attested by Tanya R. Peterson
on this 20th day of July 2026. Clerk K

Clerk email address:

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