

TOWN OF WHEATLAND RESOLUTION 2026-01
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 765 kV HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION "BACKBONE"

WHEREAS, the Town of Wheatland, Vernon County, is situated within the heart of the globally unique Driftless Area, a "paleo-refugium" bypassed by glaciers for the last several ice ages, preserving an ancient landscape that has remained undisturbed for millions of years; and

WHEREAS, the proposed LRTP Project #26 (765 kV line) is a regional "backbone" system intended to transport electricity to distant markets such as Chicago and points east, providing zero local benefit to the residents of Wheatland while imposing 200-foot industrial towers upon our land; and

WHEREAS, this unglaciated landscape features a fragile topography of steep ridges and karst geology (porous limestone) that is exceptionally vulnerable to catastrophic erosion and groundwater contamination caused by the blasting and heavy industrial construction; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin DNR Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) identifies the Town of Wheatland as a critical habitat for "Glacial Relict" species of global significance, including the federally endangered Iowa Pleistocene Snail (DNR Rank S1) and the federally threatened Northern Monkshood (DNR Rank S2); and

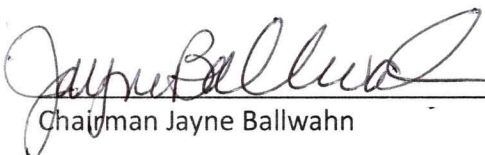
WHEREAS, these species exist nowhere else on Earth outside of these specific, fragile Algific Talus Slopes, and their survival is legally mandated under state and federal law, requiring rigorous environmental impact research that a 765 kV project would fundamentally compromise; and

WHEREAS, the massive 765 kV infrastructure produces constant corona discharge, creating audible low-frequency noise and light "glow" that is significantly amplified by Wheatland's frequent dense fog and river-bottom humidity; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that such continuous industrial noise and electromagnetic interference disrupt the natural environment, negatively impacting wildlife reproductive cycles, bird and amphibian communication, and the migratory patterns of the Mississippi River Flyway;

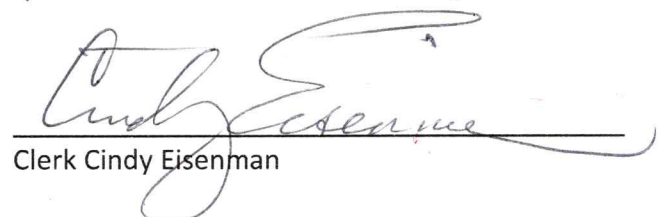
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Wheatland Board (Vernon County) formally and unequivocally opposes the development of the 765 kV transmission line within the Driftless Area. The Board finds that this ancient landscape is geologically and ecologically unsuitable for such development and that the project poses a terminal risk to the environmental integrity and irreplaceable natural heritage of our community.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2026.


Chairman Jayne Ballwahn


Supervisor Janice Vanevenhoven


Supervisor Tom Fisko


Clerk Cindy Eisenman