

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - 52

A Resolution Stating Richland County Board's Opposition to the BECI 765kV High Voltage Transmission Line Passing Through Richland County.

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS), a joint venture between Transource Energy and BHE transmission, has proposed the construction of the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) Project, a 190 mile, 765 kV alternating current high voltage transmission line spanning across the Driftless Region; and

WHEREAS, five states in the MISO region have filed complaints against the project as uneconomical with FERC, with a decision still pending, and

WHEREAS, the MISO Independent Market Monitor has reviewed the proposed project and concluded that MISO has not shown that they have considered all grid arrangement options, (Exhibit 3, FERC docket EL25-109-000) and their calculations conflict with MISOs, and finds their cost-benefit value for the project to be less than one, and

WHEREAS, a cost-benefit value less than one means ALL county electric utility customer's bills will go up, and

WHEREAS, due to nationwide concern with data centers, with resulting moratoriums, the projected increase in system load may be too uncertain to proceed on the current timeline, and may never come to pass, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin statute 1.12(6) establishes a clear priority policy mandating that new transmission lines utilize existing corridors, rights of way and highway corridors to the greatest extent possible to minimize environmental and community impacts, and

WHEREAS the study segments as published flagrantly disregard this statutory priority and establish entirely new Greenfield routes that cut directly through untouched family farms, managed forest lands and the unique Driftless landscape of trout streams, karst geology, and complex terrain, and

WHEREAS, Property values and general impact on the farming and tourism economy will be negative well beyond the direct route, as the view shed and property values will be impacted for thousands of yards beyond the right of way and will adversely affect ground water, dark skies, that are unique to the county and cause excessive noise. In addition, the demographic makeup of Richland County has a large percentage of aged (40% are 55 or older), who will see their retirement finances impacted by property value decreases, and

WHEREAS, the environmental impact of EMF fields and stray voltage on livestock, wildlife, migratory birds is extensive and the effect on humans is negative (Pubmed PMID 40970078) and

WHEREAS, MGS has not answered the questions the Richland County Board submitted to them in March 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richland County Board of Supervisors does formally oppose the construction of the BECI 765 kV anywhere, but especially through Richland County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers, the Commissioners of the Public Service Commission, State Senator Sarah Keyeski, State Senator Howard Marklein, State Representative Tony Kurtz, Secretary of the DNR, Secretary of DOT, State Attorney General, Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, Representative Derrick

Van Orden, Wisconsin Governor Candidate Tom Tiffany and Wisconsin Governor Candidate David Crowley, and the county boards of neighboring Crawford, Vernon, Sauk, Grant and Iowa counties and all other counties which the transmission line passes through.

LEGAL NOTE: Within County Board Authority

FISCAL NOTE: No Fiscal Impact

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION

AYES 17

NOES 0

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE
NATURAL RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE
(31 AUGUST 2026)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

FOR

AGAINST

JEFFREY C. HARRISON
COUNTY CLERK

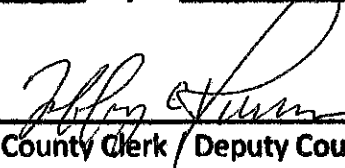
RANDY SCHOONOVER
STEVE CARROW
RICHARD MCKEE
STEVE MEYER
KEVIN NOLEN
ROD PERRY
DARLENE WALDSMITH-TAGLIAPIETRA

X
X
X
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X

DATED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

I, JEFFREY C. HARRISON,
County Clerk/Deputy County Clerk in and for the County
of Richland, do hereby certify that the above resolution
is a true copy of the original resolution adopted by the
Richland County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held
on the 15th day of SEPTEMBER, 2026.



Richland County Clerk / Deputy County Clerk