

TOWN OF CALEDONIA

R-2026.0831: A Resolution Stating the Opposition of the Town of Caledonia, Columbia County, WI, to the Proposed BECI 765kV Transmission Line.

WHEREAS, the Town of Caledonia, Columbia County, Wisconsin, is beautifully situated in the heart of southern Wisconsin set amidst abundant natural resources and productive farmland, marked by its rural character; and,

WHEREAS, the Town is bounded by the scenic waters of the Wisconsin River and Lake Wisconsin, and holds within its borders priceless ecological treasures, including the beautiful Baraboo Bluffs, threatened and endangered species of wildlife and fauna, class I and II trout streams, abundant natural areas and a rich Native American history, which have been preserved to this day; and,

WHEREAS, generations of residents have actively worked to preserve this unique rural landscape, balancing thriving family farms with the protection of native wildlife habitats, a clean watershed, and panoramic open spaces; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line would require extensive clearing, construction corridors, and long-term maintenance that would fragment wildlife habitat, disrupt agricultural lands, and permanently threaten the viability of agricultural production, ecotourism, agritourism, property values, groundwater safety, and the economic foundation and natural character of the Town; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural economy depends on undisturbed natural productive farmland, livestock operations, and regenerative farming systems that would be adversely affected by land fragmentation, easement restrictions, soil disruption, and concerns regarding electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure to livestock and people; and, .

WHEREAS, the Town of Caledonia Comprehensive Plan aims to preserve its agricultural lands, and protect its rural and scenic character along with its natural and cultural resources while planning for and directing necessary and reasonable growth; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of massive industrial transmission towers has the potential to permanently drastically alter the viewsheds along Lake Wisconsin, the Wisconsin River, and throughout the rural landscape, which threatens the Town's tourism economy that is driven by its scenic beauty, outdoor recreation, and rural character; and

WHEREAS, BECI has proposed a 765-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission line project, with multiple proposed routes that would slice directly through greenspaces and wetlands rather than existing corridors in the Town; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes § 1.12 (6)(a)-(d) states that:

[I]t is the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible that is consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, the following corridors should be utilized in the

following order of priority:

- (a) Existing utility corridors.
- (b) Highway and railroad corridors.
- (c) Recreational trails, to the extent that the facilities may be constructed below ground and that the facilities do not significantly impact environmentally sensitive Areas.
- (d) New corridors.

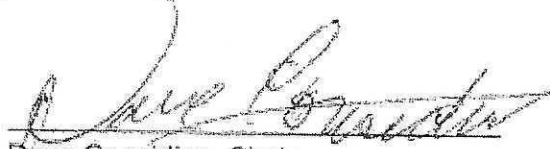
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Caledonia, Columbia County, WI, declares the preservation of the natural beauty, rural character, agricultural economy, and tourism industry of the Town to be of the utmost importance and strongly opposes the proposed routes for MGS's BECI powerline siting as too great a risk to the Town's unique, fragile, and economically essential environmental and aesthetic resources; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Caledonia, Columbia County, WI, officially requests the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and BECI to explore every alternative route for the 765 Transmission Line Project route through the Town of Caledonia.

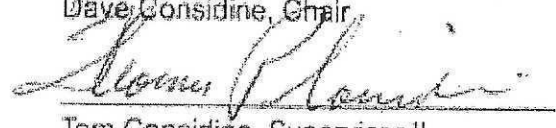
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caledonia Town Board formally and unequivocally opposes the proposed high voltage transmission lines within the Town of Caledonia, finding that this area is not suitable for such development and that the project poses substantial risks to public health, safety, and welfare, as well as to environmental integrity, agricultural viability, economic stability, and cultural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caledonia Town Clerk is hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Governor's Office, all members of the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly that represent any part of Caledonia, and all BECI project managers whose contact information can be obtained.

Passed and signed this 31st day of August, 2026 by a vote of 3 Ayes, and 0 Nos.


Dave Considine, Chair


Jim Zamzow, Supervisor I


Tom Considine, Supervisor II

Attest,


Barb Davis - Caledonia Town Clerk