

RESOLUTION NO. 3

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

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

WHEREAS, the [Town/Village] of Ironton 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, Whereas, the **Town of Ironton, Sauk County** is designated Exclusive Agricultural Zoning under the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program, meaning it is specifically protected for long-term agricultural use. Routing industrial-scale transmission infrastructure through this district directly contradicts the purpose of that designation.

The proposed corridor would place an undue burden on local dairy and beef farms—family operations that sustain Sauk County's rural economy and uphold the agricultural heritage of the Driftless Region. High-voltage transmission lines permanently disrupt farmland, reduce usable acreage, and interfere with grazing, herd movement, and equipment access. Farmers also have concerns about construction disturbance, long-term maintenance, and potential effects on livestock stress and productivity. These impacts threaten the viability of multi-generation farms already operating under tight margins.

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 Ironton, 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 [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 blufflands, 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 of Ironton and surrounding region; and

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

WHEREAS, the [Town Ironton] 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 Ironton, Sauk County, Wisconsin, on behalf of its electorate, formally states its opposition to the proposed [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

[Town/Village] Board respectfully requests that the Public

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 [BECI] Project; and

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

- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- [MariBell:] Dairyland Power Cooperative] / [BECI:] Midcontinent Grid Solutions; Transource Energy, LLC; BHE Transmission]
- Sauk 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 September 1st, 2026.

ADOPTED this 1 day of September, 2026.

[TOWN/VILLAGE] OF Ironton Sauk COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Title	Name	Signature	Date
Chair/Chairman	Jerry White		9-01-2026
Supervisor	Jason Sammons		9-01-2026
Supervisor	Bill Kinsman		9-01-2026
Treasurer	Dorothy Harms		9-01-2026
Clerk	Diane Reinfeldt		9-01-2026

- [MariBell:] Dairyland Power Cooperative] / [BECI:] Midcontinent Grid Solutions; Transource Energy, LLC; BHE Transmission]
- Sauk 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 — **Tony Kurtz and Sarah Keyeski**]
- Any other state or regional agencies involved in the review of the [MariBell] Project

BOARD ACTION: This resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of ____-____ at a duly noticed meeting of the [Town/Village] Board held on September 1, 2026.

ADOPTED this 1st day of September, 2026.

[TOWN/VILLAGE] OF _____
_____ COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Title	Name	Signature	Date
Chair/Chairman	Jerry White	<i>[Signature]</i>	9-1-2026
Supervisor	Jason Sammons	<i>[Signature]</i>	1 Sept 26
Supervisor	Bill Kinsman	<i>[Signature]</i>	9-1-26
Treasurer	Dorothy Harms	<i>[Signature]</i>	9-1-26
Clerk	Diane Reinfeldt	<i>[Signature]</i>	9-1-26