

TOWN OF ITHACA RESOLUTION 2026-001

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 765-kilovolt HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH THE TOWN OF ITHACA, RICHLAND COUNTY AND THE DRIFTLESS AREA

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

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line would require extensive clearing, construction corridors, blasting, and long-term maintenance that would fragment wildlife habitat, disrupt agricultural lands, and permanently alter the natural character of the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Midcontinent Grid Solutions BECI project #26 (765 kilovolt (kV) transmission line) is a regional backbone system intended to transport electricity to distant market such as Chicago and points east, providing zero local benefit to the residents of Ithaca Township while imposing 200-foot industrial towers upon our land; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ithaca's agricultural economy depends on productive farmland, livestock operations, and regenerative farming systems that could be adversely affected by land fragmentation, easement restrictions, soil disruption, and concerns regarding electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure to people and livestock; and

WHEREAS, property owners face potential declines in land value and long-term uncertainty, and Richland County's tourism economy which is driven by its scenic beauty, trout streams, outdoor recreation, and rural character would be negatively affected; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that such continuous industrial noise and electromagnetic interference disrupt the natural environment, negatively impacting livestock and wildlife reproductive cycles, bird and amphibian communications, and migratory patterns.

WHEREAS, such project will cause adverse economic impacts to area farmers, businesses, and landowners. Revenue declines due to interruptions to farming, woodland management- including Managed Forest Law requirements, and property value declines.

WHEREAS, infrastructure projects such as the BECI Project #26 should be sited along existing U.S. and State Highway easements as well as along existing electrical infrastructure easements and right of ways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

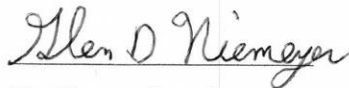
That the Ithaca Town Board formally and unequivocally opposes the proposed high-voltage transmission line within the Town of Ithaca, Richland County and the Driftless Area, finding that this region is not suitable for such development and that the project poses substantial risks to public health, safety, and welfare, as well as to environmental integrity, agricultural viability, economic stability, and cultural resources.

Submitted to the Town Board for consideration this 19th day of August 2026.

Adopted this 19th Day of August, 2026.



Steve Michel, Chairman



Glen Niemeyer, Supervisor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ron Brisbois". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ron Brisbois, Supervisor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheila Kitsembe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sheila Kitsembe, Clerk