

**TOWN OF LAPRAIRIE
RESOLUTION 2026-02**

**Resolution Opposing the Proposed Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar
Creek-
Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) 765-Kv High-Voltage
Transmission Line
Through the Town of Laprairie, Rock County, Wisconsin**

WHEREAS, the Town of LaPrairie, Rock County, Wisconsin, is a rural agricultural community characterized by productive farmland, open space, and rural residences that contribute substantially to the County's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) has approved the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765-kV Competitive Transmission Project (BECI) as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio, and Midcontinent Grid Solutions has been selected to develop the project; and

WHEREAS, the BECI Project is proposed to consist of approximately 190 miles of new single-circuit 765-kV transmission facilities extending across Wisconsin to an interconnection at the Illinois/Wisconsin state line, and a final transmission-line route has not yet been selected; and

WHEREAS, the proposed BECI 765-kV transmission project is intended to serve regional transmission needs and would provide little or no direct benefit to the residents, farms, businesses, or taxpayers of the Town of LaPrairie while imposing significant local burdens; and

WHEREAS, construction of a new 765-kV transmission corridor through the Town would require substantial rights-of-way, installation of large transmission structures, construction access, and permanent restrictions on the use and agricultural efficiency of affected property; and

WHEREAS, There are no 765-kV transmission lines presently operational in Wisconsin and therefore no actual impact data available for consideration in Wisconsin's humid, temperate climate; and

WHEREAS, The Town of LaPrairie has been designated an Agricultural Enterprise Area by the State of Wisconsin. As an AEA there is no "vacant" land in LaPrairie. All Agricultural lands in the Town are fully developed Working lands; and

WHEREAS, Land owners and Town Government have cooperated to preserve large parcels and limit population densities to fully facilitate efficient use of agricultural working lands; and

WHEREAS, Land owners have invested heavily in the conservation and preservation of our unique, quality soils; and

WHEREAS, All agricultural operations benefit from regularly shaped, large parcels to be operated most efficiently; and

WHEREAS, Additional investment in center pivot irrigation systems is prevalent and has been implemented by many landowners to insure long-term profitability and economic sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Proposed tower design, location and EMF characteristics will negatively and irreparably interfere with the operation of affected parcels, cause fragmentation of farms, interfere with aerial agricultural applications, interfere with wireless irrigation system guidance, affect pasture fencing and management; and

WHEREAS, The use of "Guyed -Y" tower design proposed in this project has been banned on all pasture and cropland in the State of Iowa without expressed land owner permission; and

WHEREAS, The "Guyed-Y" design increases the agricultural field obstacles from one obstacle per tower to five, dramatically increasing the risk of collision, injury and/or death, and

WHEREAS, A minimum Right of Way distance of 700 feet from every residence and livestock facility cannot be met by any proposed route through LaPrairie; and

WHEREAS, Significant portions of the proposed routes lie in Rock County's Airport Overlay District, limiting tower height and placement, and

WHERE AS, The EIA-861 Annual Electric Power Industry Report shows Wisconsin's total annual electrical demand over the period from 1999 to 2025 as flat rather than increasing, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin's directive for transmission line routing prioritizes using existing road, rail, and transmission line routes per Wis. State statute chapter 1, 1.12, sec (6)(a-c)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of LaPrairie, Rock County, Wisconsin, formally and unequivocally opposes the routing and construction of the proposed BECI 765-kV high-voltage transmission line through the Town of LaPrairie, finding that the project would provide little or no direct benefit to LaPrairie residents while placing disproportionate burdens upon the Town through loss of productive farmland, impacts upon agricultural operations, disruption of the rural landscape, and negative effects upon the Town's local economy, revenues, natural resources, and quality of life.

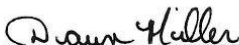
The Town Board further urges Midcontinent Grid Solutions, MISO, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and all other agencies and entities involved in the planning and approval of the project to select a route and construction practices that avoid the Town of LaPrairie and minimizes impacts upon agricultural lands, rural residences, private property, environmentally sensitive areas, and local economic resources

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that nothing in this Resolution is intended to conflict with or supersede any applicable state or federal law or the lawful jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin or any other governmental agency. The Town Clerk is authorized to transmit this Resolution to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, MISO, Rock County, the Town's state and federal representatives, the Governor of Wisconsin, and other appropriate officials.

Approved at the Town Board Meeting on September 3, 2026.



Allan Arndt, Chair



Attest: Dawn Miller, Clerk