



TOWN OF LODI

RESOLUTION #2026 – 03

A RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY, RURAL CHARACTER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE OF THE TOWN OF LODI, COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN BY OPPOSING THE BECI 765 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the Town of Lodi's vision is to preserve and protect its scenic beauty, rural character, historic and cultural resources, woodlands, wetlands, shoreline, and other unique natural resources, while enhancing the quality of life.

WHEREAS, generations of residents have actively preserved this unique rural landscape, balancing thriving family farms with the protection of native wildlife habitats, clean watersheds, and panoramic open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan protects the Town's rural and scenic character and its natural, cultural and agricultural resources while planning for and directing necessary and reasonable growth; and

WHEREAS, following a February 2026 Executive Order, the Council on Environmental Quality rescinded rules implementing the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) including opportunity for public comment, eliminating requirements for a draft Environmental Study (EIS); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14270 (Zero-Based Regulatory Budgeting to Unleash American Energy) signed on April 9, 2026 will sunset many regulations including all opportunity for public comment by September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, BECI has proposed a 765-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission line project, with a proposed route that would slice directly through the Town of Lodi; and

WHEREAS, WI State Statute 1.12(6) emphasizes using existing utility corridors first, then highways and railroads, and brand-new corridors last, and

WHEREAS, Mid Continent Grid Solutions ("Mid Continent") announced that Transource LLC ("Transource") has been selected to propose, build and own a 765 kV transmission line through the Town of Lodi known as the Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line Project ("BECI"); and

WHEREAS, neither Mid Continent nor Transource have not offered any report that this proposed route has been planned in accordance with state statutes, and

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line would require extensive clearing, soil disturbance, construction corridors and long-term construction corridors and long-term maintenance that

would fragment habitat, irreversibly damage natural resources, disrupt agricultural and school district lands, cause road damage, and permanently alter the scenic and diverse character of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lodi agricultural economy depends on productive farmland, livestock operations and farming systems that would be adversely affected by land fragmentation, powerline easement land use restrictions, soil disruption, and impacts to livestock; and

WHEREAS, impacted property owners and residents throughout the Town of Lodi would face declines in land value and long-term damage and tourism economy – driven by its scenic beauty, outdoor recreation and rural character would be negatively impacted; and

WHEREAS, this heavy industrial infrastructure directly conflicts with the Town's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, threatening to disrupt delicate ecosystems, fragment continuous woodlands, and compromise agricultural soils.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Lodi, Columbia County, Wisconsin, hereby requests that Mid Continent and/or Transource provide the following information either in written, electronic format or through an in-person presentation to the Town Board:

1. A map of eligible, existing transmission line routes for the considered 765 kV transmission line Project through the Town of Lodi.
2. Images of the types of towers that might be used for the transmission line Project.
3. The range of the heights of these 765 kV transmission towers, in feet.
4. The range in total easement widths that these 765 kV transmission towers would require, in feet.
5. The name(s) of the entity or entities that would own the 765 kV transmission line within the Town of Lodi.
6. Estimated date that Transource's 765 kV transmission line application in Wisconsin is expected to be proposed to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
7. Estimated total 20-year cost to the ratepayers for Transource's "BECI," segment including R>O>E>, financing costs and the costs of additional power plants that Mid Continent planning assumes.
8. An estimate of the acreage of additional land required for the 765 kV right of way in the Town of Lodi by habitat types including forest, agriculture, water ways and conservation purposes.
9. A list of the "significant economic development benefits" with approximate monetary amounts that the 765kV line would deliver to the ratepayer, businesses and local economies the Town of Lodi.
10. Documentation explaining Mid Continent's calculation of a net monetary benefit for Wisconsin residential electric customers if the estimated cost of the Project is around \$27.50 per month, while returning only \$10 to \$14 per month to ratepayers.
11. A list of prior 765kV transmission projects that Transource and its parent companies have already installed with detailed locations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town declares the preservation of its natural beauty and rural character to be a priority of the highest order, and therefore officially and unequivocally opposes any BECI 765 Transmission Line Project route through the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town's opposition applies to any and all BECI 765 kV as well as any and all 765 kV-transmission line alignments, route alternatives, route modifications, reroutings, or replacement proposals that would enter, cross, occupy, or otherwise utilize land within the Town of Lodi, whether such alignment is presently proposed or subsequently developed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board calls upon the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) and BECI to respect the environmental integrity of Lodi, honor the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and protect its agriculture, residential and scenic landscapes by utilizing alternative routes outside the Town's boundaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to BECI project managers, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Governor's office, and all member of the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly representing districts within the Town of Lodi.

Passed, approved and adopted this 2nd day of September, 2026.

THE TOWN OF LODI,
COLUMBIA COUNTY,
WISCONSIN

By: Steve Neander
Steve Neander, Chairman

Attest: Shellie Benish
Shellie Benish, Administrator / Clerk/ Treasurer

