

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0825

A Resolution Stating the Opposition of the Town of Sumpter, Sauk County, Wisconsin, to the Proposed BECI 765-Kilovolt Electric Transmission Line Project

WHEREAS, [MariBell:] Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland, LLC, through the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), is proposing the construction of a 765-kilovolt electric transmission line extending from Marion, Minnesota to Bell Center, Wisconsin, commonly referred to as the 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, the proposed BECI Project route is intended to traverse areas in Sauk County, Wisconsin, including lands within and adjacent to the Town of Sumpter; and

WHEREAS, Town of Sumpter is located within the Baraboo Bluffs National Landmark, 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, Baxter's Hollow Sanctuary and Devils Lake State Park are in the verifiable, public-record fact; and

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 of Sumpter, shifting the tax burden to other residents and constraining the Town'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 farmland with associated ecological, economic, and carbon-sequestration benefits; and

WHEREAS, the scenic blufflands, river corridors, forested landscapes, and undeveloped rural character of the Baraboo Bluffs 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 and surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, residents, landowners, and the electorate of the Town of Sumpter 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 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 Board of Sumpter, 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 Baraboo Bluffs and Devils Lake State Park and the unacceptable potential impacts on wildlife habitat, natural resources, agricultural and timber lands, property values, the Town's tax base, tourism revenues, and overall community character; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin give careful and deliberate consideration to the unique environmental, geologic, economic, and cultural characteristics of the Baraboo Bluffs and Devils Lake State Park 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 of Sumpter and transmitted to:

- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- [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 BECI Project

7. Effective date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Sumpter, Sauk County, Wisconsin, at a duly noticed public meeting held on August 25, 2026.

Vote	Ayes	Nayes	Abstentions
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Timothy H. Colby
Timothy Colby, Town Chair

Timothy Bruckert
Timothy Bruckert, Town Supervisor

Donna Ziegler
Donna Ziegler, Town Supervisor

ATTEST: Rita A. Seaver
Rita Seaver, Town Clerk