

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - 02

A Resolution Stating the Opposition of the Village of Cazenovia, Richland & Sauk Counties, Wisconsin, to the Proposed BECI 765-Kilovolt Electric Transmission Line Project

WHEREAS, 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 Richland & Sauk Counties, Wisconsin, including lands adjacent to the Village of Cazenovia; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Cazenovia 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, 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 Village of Cazenovia, shifting the tax burden to other residents and constraining the 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 bluff lands, 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 Village and surrounding region; and

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

WHEREAS, the Village 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 Village Board of Cazenovia, Richland & Sauk Counties, 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 Village's tax base, tourism revenues, and overall community character; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village 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 Driftless Area and the formal concerns of affected local governments and residents during its review of the BECI Project; and

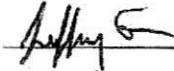
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official records of the Village of Cazenovia and transmitted to:

- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- Midcontinent Grid Solutions; Transource Energy, LLC; BHE Transmission
- Richland & Sauk County officials
- Tony Kurtz, 51st Assembly District & Sarah Keyeski, 14th State Senate District

BOARD ACTION: This resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 6 - 0 at a duly noticed meeting of the Village Board held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2026. **VILLAGE OF CAZENOVIA,
RICHLAND & SAUK COUNTIES, WISCONSIN**

Jeffrey Even, President



Date 09/09/2026

Rita Bulin, Clerk/Treasurer



Date 9/9/2026