

Town of Milford, Jefferson County, Wisconsin
Resolution 2026-09-03
Resolution Opposing the Proposed 76
5KV High-Voltage
Transmission Line Development

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, LLC ("MGS"), a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission, has been selected by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator to develop the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765-kV Competitive Transmission Project ("BECI), and

WHEREAS, MGS has published a study area that includes Jefferson County with possible routes running through the Town of Milford; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is a regional backbone system intended to transport electricity to distant market providing zero local benefit to the residents of the Town of Milford while imposing 200-foot industrial towers upon our land, the effects of construction and maintenance, economic and health impacts and

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line would require extensive clearing, construction corridors and long-term maintenance that would disrupt agricultural lands and fragment wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Milford's agricultural economy depends on productive farmland and livestock operations that could be adversely affected by land fragmentation, easement restrictions, soil disruption, and concerns regarding electromagnetic field exposure to livestock and humans alike; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Milford's agricultural economy has many multi-generational families and extensive drainage systems that will be impacted or destroyed by construction thus adversely affecting crop and dairy production, family livelihoods, and ultimately water table safety; and

WHEREAS, the majority of land in the Town of Milford is involved in agriculture and the proposed project would use 13.75% of an acre of land through construction, easements and maintenance resulting in a substantial loss for crop, seed, dairy and food production; and

WHEREAS, the proposed transmission line would negatively affect the economy to tourism and campground operations due to degradation of landscape, noise level and reduced recreational enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, property owners face potential declines in land value and long-term uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line can significantly degrade or disrupt signal performance of our county-wide emergency communications; disrupt or interfere signal performance of GPS enabled farm and other equipment and disrupt or interfere with transponders on dairy cattle; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that such continuous industrial noise and electromagnetic interference disrupts the natural environment, and may adversely affect wildlife behavior and reproduction cycles; and

WHEREAS, residents, landowners and the electorate of the Town of Milford have expressed significant concern regarding the cumulative environmental, agricultural, economic, scenic, and property-related impacts associated with the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Milford Board has a responsibility to represent the interests, welfare, and expressed concerns of the Town of Milford electorate and to communicate those concerns to state regulatory authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Milford formally and unequivocally opposes the proposed high-voltage transmission line within the Town of Milford, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, 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 the environmental integrity, agricultural viability, economic stability, and cultural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Milford respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin give careful and deliberate consideration of the formal concerns of affected local governments and residents during its review of the proposed high-voltage transmission line;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be entered into the official records of the Town of Milford and transmitted to:

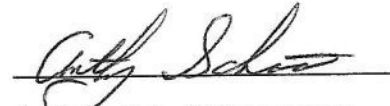
- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS)
- Wisconsin Governor Anthony Evers
- Senator John Jagler
- Representative William Penterman
- U. S. Senator Ron Johnson
- U. S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
- U. S. House of Representative Scott Fitzgerald
- Jefferson County Supervisor Robert Preuss
- Jefferson County Supervisor Gary Skalitzy
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Any other state or regional agencies involved in the review of the project.

Adopted this 3 day of September, 2026.

The Town of Milford, Jefferson County, Wisconsin



Steve Kube, Chairman



Anthony Schadt, Supervisor



Duane Bennett, Supervisor

Attest:



Karen Schadt, Clerk

TOWN OF MILFORD BOARD
Jefferson County, Wisconsin
<http://www.townofmilford.org>

September 3, 2026

RE: Formal Opposition to the Proposed BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Through the Town of Milford

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town Board of Milford formally opposes the routing of the proposed Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) 765-kV transmission project through the Town of Milford and its surrounding agricultural and residential areas. The proposed project is part of an approximately 190-mile, 765-kV transmission corridor being developed through southern Wisconsin, including Jefferson County.

The Town Board recognizes the importance of maintaining a reliable electric grid. However, we believe the proposed route places an unacceptable burden on the residents, farmers, businesses, natural resources, and rural character of Milford. The scale of this project, including transmission structures that may exceed 150 feet in height, would permanently alter the landscape and significantly impact our community.

Agricultural Impacts

Agriculture is the foundation of the Town of Milford. The proposed transmission corridor threatens productive farmland, agricultural operations, and future agricultural viability.

The Town is concerned about:

- Permanent loss of productive farmland and restrictions on future land use.
- Damage to subsurface drainage tile systems during construction and maintenance activities.
- Interference with modern farming operations and equipment.
- Potential impacts to livestock health and behavior.
- Concerns regarding stray voltage and electromagnetic interference affecting dairy operations.
- Potential reductions in milk production and animal performance resulting from construction disturbances and long-term operational impacts.

Milford's family farms should not be forced to bear the costs and risks associated with a project that primarily serves regional transmission objectives.

Property Rights and Property Values

The proposed transmission line would negatively affect property owners throughout the Town of Milford.

The Town Board is concerned about:

- Reduced residential and agricultural property values.
- Permanent visual impacts from large transmission structures.
- Restrictions on future development and land use.
- Loss of property rights through easements and potential condemnation proceedings.
- Reduced marketability of homes and farms located near the corridor.

Property owners who have invested their lives in their homes, farms, and businesses should not suffer substantial economic losses because of this project.

Human Health and Quality of Life

Residents have expressed serious concerns regarding potential impacts to health and quality of life.

These concerns include:

- Electromagnetic fields associated with extra-high-voltage transmission infrastructure.
- Potential interference with medical devices such as pacemakers and implantable defibrillators.
- Audible noise generated by high-voltage transmission lines, particularly during humid and wet weather conditions.
- Static electric fields and nuisance electrical effects.
- Loss of rural character and enjoyment of private property.

The Town believes these concerns deserve thorough independent evaluation before any route is approved.

Environmental and Natural Resource Concerns

Milford contains valuable natural resources that could be adversely affected by construction and operation of this corridor.

Specific concerns include:

- Groundwater contamination resulting from construction activities.
- Increased runoff and erosion associated with vegetation removal.
- Long-term herbicide use for right-of-way maintenance and the resulting impacts on water quality.
- Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat.
- Impacts to bird populations, including migratory birds and raptors.
- Disturbance of wetlands, waterways, and environmentally sensitive areas.

The Town believes these impacts are inconsistent with responsible stewardship of Jefferson County's natural resources.

Cultural and Historical Resources

The Town is also concerned about potential impacts to cultural and historical resources, including:

- Native American burial sites.
- Archaeological resources and artifacts.
- Historically significant landscapes and rural heritage resources.

Any route crossing areas containing cultural resources should be avoided entirely whenever possible.

Impacts to Community Assets

The proposed transmission line would negatively affect community assets that contribute to Milford's economy and quality of life.

The Town is particularly concerned about impacts to River Bend Campground and surrounding recreational areas, including:

- Visual degradation of the landscape.
- Increased noise levels.
- Reduced recreational enjoyment.
- Potential economic impacts to tourism and campground operations.

These facilities are important community resources that should be protected.

Conclusion

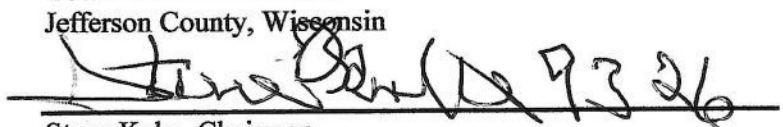
The Town Board of Milford respectfully requests that the proposed BECI 765-kV transmission line not be routed through the Town of Milford.

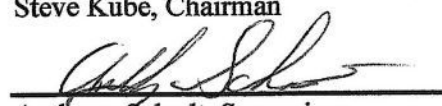
The cumulative impacts to agriculture, property values, natural resources, cultural resources, recreation, and the health and welfare of our residents are too significant to justify placing this project within our community. The Town urges project developers and regulatory agencies to eliminate the Township of Milford from consideration and pursue alternatives that avoid the substantial and permanent impacts outlined above.

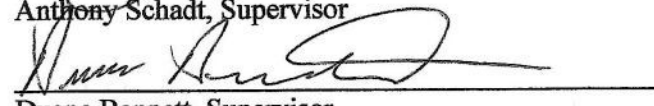
The Town Board requests that this letter be included in the official record for all future proceedings related to the BECI 765-kV transmission project.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Board of Milford
Jefferson County, Wisconsin


Steve Kube, Chairman


Anthony Schadt, Supervisor


Duane Bennett, Supervisor