

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF WATERLOO, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED MIDCONTINENT GRID SOLUTIONS (MGS) BECI 765-KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, ASSERTING THE RIGHT TO ENERGY ALTERNATIVES, DEFENDING LANDOWNER RIGHTS, AND CITING ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISK FACTORS

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) has proposed the **BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Project**, a high-voltage transmission route spanning multiple counties across Southern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project involves the construction of massive steel transmission towers requiring expansive right-of-way corridors that threaten the rural character, agricultural heritage, and natural resources of the Town of Waterloo, Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of a 765-kV high-voltage line introduces significant **environmental risk factors**, including the permanent destruction of pristine wetlands, fragmentation of critical wildlife habitats, clear-cutting of vital forest canopies, and the severe compaction of fertile agricultural soils which reduces crop yields and disrupts drainage tile systems essential to Waterloo's farming economy; and

WHEREAS, the project presents serious **human health and safety risk factors**, specifically regarding the continuous, long-term exposure of residents, farming families, and children to powerful electromagnetic fields (EMFs), along with increased safety hazards related to operating heavy farm equipment under high-voltage lines, and potential stray voltage issues that can severely impact the health and milk production of local dairy herds; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary corridors intersect directly with or loom adjacent to the boundaries, agricultural lands, and residential properties within the Town of Waterloo, Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin statutory siting priorities dictate that high-voltage transmission lines should utilize existing utility and highway corridors rather than cutting new, destructive paths through established communities and private property; and

WHEREAS, the threat of eminent domain and aggressive right-of-way acquisitions by multi-state utility interests directly infringes upon the constitutional property rights, land equity, and financial security of local landowners within the Town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 60.10, the town electors possess the authority to direct the town board and advance resolutions on matters affecting the collective well-being, property rights, and land-use priorities of the community at a properly noticed town meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Electors of the **Town of Waterloo, Jefferson County, Wisconsin**, at a legally convened Special Town Meeting of the Electors, that the Town Electors hereby officially **oppose the Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Project** and strongly object to any routing options passing through or impacting the Town of Waterloo Jefferson County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this position is established **based upon information publicly available as of the date of adoption**, and the Town explicitly **reserves the right to supplement, modify, or amend** this resolution, its findings, and its statutory objections at any time as additional information, route maps, environmental impact statements, or public health data become available from MGS or regulatory agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town explicitly **reserves the right to seek formal party status (Intervenor Status)** in any and all proceedings before the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin regarding the BECI project, ensuring the Town has full legal standing to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and legally challenge applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town **reserves the right to insist** that MGS and the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin thoroughly evaluate and prioritize **non-wires alternatives**, including localized energy generation, battery storage systems, aggressive energy efficiency programs, and upgrading existing lower-voltage grid infrastructure before considering any new greenfield transmission corridors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town **reserves the right to employ all legal remedies, statutory protections, and interventions** to ensure the absolute **protection of private property rights**, fiercely opposing any use of eminent domain or forced easements that strip Waterloo residents of their land value, generational farms, and constitutional rights to due process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Electors direct the Town Board to take all necessary administrative and budgetary actions to exercise these rights, including the retention of legal counsel or technical experts to secure party status and advocate for these alternatives, rights, and reservations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the provisions of this Resolution are severable, and **if any provision, clause, sentence, or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional** by a court of competent jurisdiction or regulatory body, such decision **shall not affect or impair the remaining portions and provisions** of this Resolution, which shall continue in full force and effect; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Midcontinent Grid Solutions, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, local state legislators, and the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors

Passed and adopted by a vote of the Town Electors this 29 day of September, 2026.

Number of Town Electors voting aye: 36

Number of Town Electors voting nay: 0

Number of Town Electors abstaining: 0

APPROVED BY:



Town Board Chair

ATTEST:



Town Clerk