

RESOLUTION 2026-62

URGE THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO IMMEDIATELY ENACT A STATEWIDE MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF 765kV TRANSMISSION LINES IN WISCONSIN

Whereas, a 765kV transmission line, known as **MariBell**, is proposed to be constructed through Vernon County, and

Whereas, the MariBell transmission line project involves the highest-voltage transmission project ever proposed for Wisconsin, and

Whereas, MariBell is a component part of a group of transmission lines approved by, and labeled “Tranche 2.1” by, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). The MISO process designates no stakeholder sector that represents affected landowners and host communities that must bear the siting burdens of MISO-approved transmission projects, and

Whereas, on July 5, 2025, five states within MISO’s territory filed a Complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) stating that MISO’s approval of the “tranche” of transmission lines that include MariBell violates MISO’s tariff.¹ The Docket in which FERC is addressing the five-state Complaint remains open, and

Whereas, MISO’s own Independent Market Monitor (IMM) reviewed MISO’s selected set of transmission projects that include MariBell and concluded it to be based on **“extremely unrealistic”** assumptions and that MISO’s **“methodologies are likely to lead to substantially over-estimated benefits”**, and

Whereas, an expert for the five states, William Hogan, formerly the Research Director of the Harvard Electricity Policy Group, concluded, like the IMM, that MISO had not fairly compared building the “tranche” of transmission lines that include the MariBell line with the alternatives likely to come into existence if it is not built, and

Whereas, Although the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) is legally charged with independently and objectively deciding whether to grant a Certificate allowing the MariBell Project to be constructed, the PSC co-sponsored a September 9, 2025, filing with MISO calling for FERC to dismiss the five-State Complaint and describing the PSC’s anticipated consideration of MariBell as simply an issue of “further approval”, and

Whereas, in the filing to FERC the PSC also stated that “[t]he Tranche 2.1 portfolio [which includes MariBell] reflects states’ resource plans.” The PSC filing did not identify any Wisconsin “resource plan” reflected in MISO’s approval of MariBell. The PSC’s filing with FERC indicates pre-judgment of the MariBell project, and

¹ FERC Docket No. EL25-109-000, The MISO Tariff establishes legally binding rates, terms, conditions, and operating rules under which MISO must operate.

Whereas, the “Advance Plan” process, our State’s former method for “integrated resource planning” through which electrical infrastructure and improved efficiency were considered and planned together, was terminated almost three decades ago through 1997 Wisconsin Act 204, and

Whereas, the economic, social, and environmental consequences of such decisions underscore the importance of fair processes and rigorous regulatory review before additional treasured areas of our State, such as the Driftless region, are further burdened with additional major transmission lines, and

Whereas, The Vernon County Board finds:

1. The PSC’s apparent prejudgment of MariBell related issues it is supposed to objectively resolve later based on evidence, the PSC’s apparent contention that there exists a Wisconsin “resource plan” that is consistent with what MISO has approved despite the termination of the Advance Plan almost thirty years ago, raise serious concerns that our State and its Legislature should address before allowing the approval of additional major high voltage transmission lines;
2. The IMM’s criticism and the five-state Complaint that challenge the basis on which that MariBell proposal was approved present serious questions that must be objectively addressed and resolved in the public interest.

Now therefore be it RESOLVED, the Vernon County Board therefore calls on the Wisconsin Legislature to immediately enact a moratorium on the consideration or approval of any 765 kV Transmission line(s) in Wisconsin until the Legislature has convened a fairly-constituted Legislative Council Special Committee, acting in an open and democratic process, charged with making recommendations for:

- a. electricity resource planning for the State of Wisconsin;
- b. much needed Public Service Commission reform;
- c. and for future transmission line policy that includes local stakeholders.

Submitted to the County Board for consideration this 19th day of October 2026

David Eggen Aye 4 Nay 0 Absent 1 Abstain 0
David Eggen, General Government Committee Chair



VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Aye: 16 Nay: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 0

Office of the Vernon County Clerk

I, J. Pedretti, County Clerk of Vernon County, Wisconsin DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors at the meeting of October 22, 2026, as indicated in transcription taken personally by me.

J. Pedretti 10/22/2026
/s/ J. Pedretti, Vernon County Clerk