

(Model resolution opposing the 30 x 30 program for States primarily comprised of private lands)

STATE OF [Name]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- ____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S “30 X 30” LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [Name] for which the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, [County] contains [number] acres of land in the State of [Name]; and

WHEREAS, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of [Name] County’s businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including [Insert active industries in your area]. (i.e. forest product’s industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation); and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, governments are instituted among people, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed to secure their inherent and inalienable rights, and for the protection of their property; and

WHEREAS, private property rights are guaranteed full protection under the Constitution of [State], as well as, the Constitution of the United States, which prohibit the erosion of these rights for a public purpose; and

[Insert the following provision if the federal government owns land in the County, insert the following]

WHEREAS, the federal government currently owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing approximately [number] acres of these federal lands as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

[Insert the following provision if the State owns land in the County]

WHEREAS, within [Name] County, the State of _____ owns and manages [Describe prominent protected state land designations within the County such as Parks, school trust lands, etc.) Include map if have available] as illustrated in **Exhibit A**; and

[Insert the following provision if there are permanent Conservation Easements on lands in the County]

WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are protected with perpetual conservation easements as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008, entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality, and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least thirty (30) percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, an estimated 700 million acres of our Nation’s lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state by 2030, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and water in the United States is a public purpose, not voted on or consented to by the people, Congress, or the [State] Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program seeks to replace the decision-making of independent Landowners who have been caring for these lands for generations without federal mandates and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has stated they will be using all the tools in existing law to reach their 30 percent target by 2030, including conservation easements in perpetuity, federal conservation programs, National Heritage Areas, Wildlife Corridors, Endangered Species listings and critical habitat designations, and all other similar programs; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economy of [State], and counties, such as [Name] whose citizens depend on private lands for their security and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, lands placed under permanent conservation easements reduce the value of that parcel of land while increasing the tax burden on other private landowners and industries to make up the property valuation difference; and

WHEREAS, federal conservation programs artificially drive up the cost of, and directly compete with, the working landowners who depend on the ability to lease or purchase those lands for the production of the food, fiber, energy and minerals our nation requires; and

[Insert the following provision if County has a land-use, natural resource, comprehensive plan, or other similar planning vehicle]

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies, and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of County Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal and state government to coordinate its policy development with [Name].; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of [Name] County, [State] as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of lands within our jurisdiction.
2. The Board further opposes the designation and use of lands in [Name] County to be included as a part of the "30 x 30" program, whether these be through conservation programs, easements, national heritage areas, wildlife preserves, wildlife corridors, open space, or other federal designations preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of [Name] laws governing water rights and water use and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] law.

5. The Board opposes and disagrees with using any public purpose, including global climate change, to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing sellers/landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.

7. The Board requires that any proposed federal land acquisitions within their jurisdiction have the consent of the Board of Commissioners. This includes any transfer of conservation easements from land trusts to the federal government.

8. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the [State] Department of Agriculture, [State] Attorney General, Governor [Name] and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 202_.

ATTEST:

_____[Name of Clerk]
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: _____[Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]