

GRANGE TOWNSHIP
PIPESTONE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
Resolution No. _____

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE POWERON MIDWEST 765 kV
TRANSMISSION PROJECT AND THE PROPOSED ROUTE**

WHEREAS, PowerOn Midwest is a joint effort between ITC, Xcel Energy, and Great River Energy (collectively, "PowerOn") to develop and construct a 765 kV transmission line through Southwestern Minnesota connecting the Brookings Substation in Brookings, South Dakota to the Lakefield Substation in Hunter Township, Minnesota (the "Project");

WHEREAS, PowerOn's preferred proposed route for the Project ("Proposed Route") currently runs through Grange Township ("Town");

WHEREAS, 765 kV transmission lines are large-scale, high-capacity facilities designed to carry substantial amounts of electrical power over long distances. PowerOn's records submitted to the State indicate that the transmission towers proposed for the Project may reach heights of up to 175 feet, include bases up to 2,500 square feet, and require foundations up to 65 feet deep;

WHEREAS, the Town expressly opposes the Project, and the Proposed Route within the Town, due to the severe and unavoidable impacts the Project would have on the rural character, natural resources, township roads, livestock, agricultural operations, and residents within the Town;

WHEREAS, nearly the entire Proposed Route within the Town runs directly through farmland, not along any existing rights-of-way or transmission lines;

WHEREAS, Minnesota's transmission-routing priorities favor placement along existing corridors – such as highway rights-of-way, railroads, pipelines, and existing transmission lines – to the greatest extent practicable, while minimizing impacts to human settlement, including but not limited to, public health and safety, displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts (such as agriculture), environmental justice impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services. *See* Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subds. 4 and 11;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Supreme Court has held that a high-power transmission line "that impairs, pollutes, or destroys protected natural resources cannot be approved if there is a prudent and feasible alternative route available." *People for Env't Enlightenment & Resp. (PEER), Inc. v. Minnesota Env't Quality Council*, 266 N.W.2d 858, 864 (Minn. 1978);

WHEREAS, the Proposed Route through Grange Township does not meet these routing priorities and would instead traverse highly productive farmland and active agricultural operations;

WHEREAS, the Town contains some of the most productive farmland in the State;

WHEREAS, preservation of prime farmland is essential to maintaining the rural character, scenic landscape, and quality of life in the Township, and the continued productivity of this land is vital to current and future farm operations. Agriculture is a fundamental component of the Town's economy and socioeconomic character, and the loss, fragmentation, or impairment of agricultural land and farming operations would have lasting economic and community impacts;

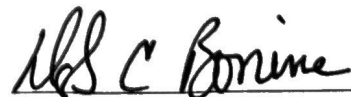
WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the need to protect prime agricultural soils and productive natural resources from premature or inefficient conversion to non-agricultural uses and to preserve the long-term productivity and financial value of this highly productive farmland;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Grange Township, Pipestone County, Minnesota, based on the findings herein, hereby opposes the Project and the Proposed Route because:

1. The Project will have an untold negative impact on the rural character, natural resources, township roads, livestock, agricultural operations, and residents within the Town;
2. If the Project proceeds, the Proposed Route must be moved to existing rights-of-way, such as highways or existing transmission line corridors, whenever practical to avoid ongoing harm to the Town's farmland:
 - a. The Proposed Route, including the installation and maintenance of the high-power transmission lines, will have a significant adverse impact on the Town's land-based economy by interrupting and disrupting agricultural operations.
 - b. The Proposed Route, and the heavy machinery required to construct and maintain it, would permanently damage productive farmland within the Town. Drain tiles and soil within the Town's farmland are fragile and will be damaged by this heavy machinery, irreparably damaging drainage and the growing potential of the soil and agricultural viability as a whole.

Adopted this 24 day of September, 2026.

BY THE TOWN BOARD


Chairperson

Attest: Marge DeBryer
Town Clerk