CITY OF PIPESTONE
PIPESTONE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION 2026-54

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED POWERON MIDWEST 765 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT 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"); and

WHEREAS, a number of cities and townships in Pipestone County in southwest Minnesota, over which the Project route would traverse, have adopted resolutions or statements opposing the Project, including the City of Hatfield and the Townships of Altona, Elmer, Fountain Prairie, Grange, Gray, and Troy (collectively, the "Governmental Entities"); and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Entities have cited a number of concerns arising out of the Project, including impacts and obstacles upon farming and damage to livestock, drainage alterations, interference with radio and GPS communications, impacts upon wetlands and wildlife, noise and vibration, damage to, and required alteration of, roads and a diminution of property values; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Governmental Entities, the City expressly opposes the Project route due to the severe and unavoidable impacts the Project would have on the rural character, natural resources, roads, livestock, agricultural operations and residents within the Pipestone County; and

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); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project route does not meet these routing priorities and would instead traverse highly productive farmland and active agricultural operations in Pipestone County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Pipestone, Pipestone County, Minnesota formally opposes the Project route.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Resolution be transmitted to PowerOn and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City work with the Governmental Entities to urge state and federal regulators, including the MPUC, to ensure that:

- Meaningful public engagement occurs before any routing decisions are made.
- Alternative routes and non-transmission alternatives are full evaluated.
- Agricultural impacts within Pipestone County are minimized and fully mitigated.
- Property rights protections are upheld.
- Compensation standards are fair, transparent and reflect long-term burdens.
- Environmental and safety reviews are comprehensive and science based.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Pipestone this 19th day of October, 2026.

Dan Delaney
Mayor

ATTEST:

Megan DeWitte
City Clerk