

SUPPORTING A CHANGE IN STATE REGULATIONS OR LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE LOCAL INPUT IN THE SITING OF WINDFARMS

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is in support of clean energy and in 2019 adopted resolution 19-20/003 calling for 100 percent renewable energy and carbon neutrality by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, a private energy company is proposing the siting and development of a windfarm in the Towns of Clear Creek and Pleasant Valley in Eau Claire County, and has gone so far as to have entered into agreements with some landowners for placement of wind turbines; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed windfarm is a “large electrical generating facility” and as a result and according to Wisconsin Statutes and the administrative regulations, permits for the windfarm will be determined by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and not by the town(s) or county and without local review or control; and,

WHEREAS, a windfarm will have a potential impact on the landowners who agree to have a wind turbine placed on their property and for their neighbors. The siting of a windfarm can and has been shown to create changes in property values and create issues for residents living near the wind turbines such as noise, shadow flicker and electrical interference; and,

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County supports the ability of local residents and municipalities being able to participate and provide input concerning the permitting, siting and development of potential windfarms, that exceed 100 megawatts in size.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; Eau Claire County supports the efforts and ability of the local residents and municipalities to participate and provide input into the siting, permitting and development of windfarms that are classified as a large electrical generating facility, and urges the state to make the necessary changes in the laws and regulations to allow the maximum amount of input by local residents and municipalities who are impacted by siting and development of large windfarms; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers, the Wisconsin Counties Association, members of the Wisconsin legislature, and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

ADOPTED: February 19, 2020

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk