RESOLUTION NO. 19-2026 AGENDA NO. I-3

RESOLUTION

Initiated By:
Land Conservation, Planning
and Zoning Committee

Drafted By:
Michal J. Peterson
Asst. Corporation Counsel

Submitted By:
Land Conservation, Planning
and Zoning Committee

Date Drafted:
July 1, 2026

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE WCA TO LOBBY THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR FOR GREATER LOCAL CONTROL FOR WISCONSIN COUNTIES RELATED TO LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND WIND PROJECTS

WHEREAS, local governments in Wisconsin are closest to the people they serve and are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs, priorities, and challenges of their communities; **and,**

WHEREAS, public meetings and hearings held by local units of government allow for significantly more opportunity for public input than meetings and hearings held by the Public Service Commission in Madison; **and,**

WHEREAS, preserving control is essential to maintaining accountability, transparency, and public trust in government as well as ensuring that decisions reflect local values and conditions; **and,**

WHEREAS, statewide, one size fits all regulations do not always appropriately address the issues and needs of every Wisconsin community; **and,**

WHEREAS, a series of mandates and other agency actions have continuously shifted powers from the local to the state level; **and,**

WHEREAS, the geographic, environmental, and demographic diversity across Wisconsin counties necessitates localized approaches to governance that reflect each county's unique characteristics; **and,**

WHEREAS, state legislators have been making attempts to return local control to cities, villages and towns over large-scale wind and solar projects in several bills; **and,**

WHEREAS, such attempts should also be applied to counties and county boards who are demographically elected bodies that directly represent the interests of and values of their constituents; **and,**

WHEREAS, significant negative impacts on environmental habitats, public health, road infrastructure, and property values and taxes due to large-scale wind and solar projects in those areas where they exist are well established and documented; **and,**

WHEREAS, agriculture in our country and across the state is a significant and leading industry so much so that Farmland Preservation is an actively pursued item within Crawford County and across the state, and agricultural land must be protected for current and future needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the Wisconsin Counties Association consider this issue and/or adopt this resolution and lobby the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to support any and all efforts and legislation that would give local elected bodies greater control in regulating large scale wind and solar projects to the best interest of their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Wisconsin State Legislature amend Wisconsin Statute 66.0401 and allow counties to regulate large scale solar and wind energy systems by specifically striking section 66.0401(1m), (a), (b), and (c) from the Wisconsin Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, all local and state legislators who represent citizens across Crawford County, the Governor, and all county boards in Wisconsin for consideration, support, and action.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2026.

Gary Koch, Chairman

Kate Krachey

Mary Kuhn

Russ Gillitzer

Al Thompson

Passed and approved this 18th day of August, 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk