

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - ____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND INITIATIVE AND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, Furnas County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Nebraska for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Furnas County contains 461,439 acres of land, in the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, many of Furnas County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize privately owned lands and their resources, including livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Nebraska economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Furnas County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (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 and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 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, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, 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 30 x 30 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of Furnas County, and injure the County's businesses and its citizens by depriving them of access to public lands and national forest system lands and preventing the productive use of these lands' resources; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of some 680 million acres of federal lands from multiple use and placement of such lands in permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many central states, including Nebraska, and in particular rural counties such as Furnas County whose citizens depend on access to private lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at Sec. 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Furnas County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes any unilateral special designations of public lands in Furnas County without full public participation and local support. Public and local involvement in designation for wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands must directly involve and defer to the preferences of our community.
3. The Board supports maintaining and enhancing public access to public lands and opposes road closures, road decommissioning, moratoria on road construction, and other limitations on public access for the purpose of fulfilling the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs 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 Nebraska law.
5. The Board opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

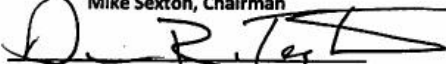
DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FURNAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

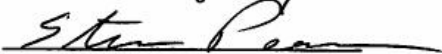
FURNAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Mike Sexton, Chairman



Dennis Tegtmann



Steve Pearson