

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-874**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the well- being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of Coffey County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, many of Coffey County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private 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 Kansas economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Coffey County and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

**WHEREAS**, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, was directed 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**, President Biden does not identify which lands may be targeted by the program Executive Order 14008. However, the Department of Interior released a fact sheet on the same day finding that only 12 percent of America's lands are currently "conserved"; 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 the Order; and

**WHEREAS**, the "30 x 30" program creates great local concern that the federal government will move to enlarge the federal estate or further restrict the use of public lands, especially those public lands located within the boundaries of Coffey County; and

**WHEREAS**, the "30 x 30" program also involves the potential increase in land use restrictions by the federal government on lands located within the boundaries of Coffey County and obtaining the 30 percent goal from state or private lands under the Order would potentially

require condemnation or otherwise severely limit the local uses of such lands, resulting in the infringement on the private property rights of our citizens and significantly harming our local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Kansas, and in particular rural counties such as Coffey County whose citizens depend on 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 Coffey County, Kansas, as follows:

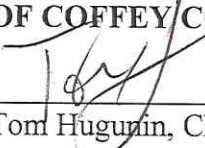
1. The Board opposes the “30 x 30” program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes any unilateral special designations of public lands in Coffey County under the “30 x 30” program without full public participation and local support. Any proposed designation of lands under the “30 x 30” program must directly involve and include the local preferences of Coffey County citizens, especially those designations that restrict public access to such lands and/or prevent the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the current management of the public lands and federally designated areas, and in careful coordination with Coffey County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies, as required by law.
4. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
5. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Kansas' water rights system 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 Kansas law.
6. 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.



7. The Board maintains that the designation of public lands to fulfill the "30 x 30" program's objectives may lawfully occur, if at all, only through the planning process mandated by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (for public lands), including public notice and an opportunity to comment, analysis and disclosure of the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Coffey County, its businesses, and its citizens, and careful coordination with Coffey County officials.
8. The Board also maintains that any non-federal lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the "30 x 30" program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Coffey County, its businesses, and its citizens.
9. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

**ADOPTED this 26th day of July 2021, by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COFFEY COUNTY, KANSAS.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF COFFEY COUNTY, KANSAS**

  
Tom Huguenin, Chairman

  
Don Meats, Vice Chairman

  
Robert L. Saueressig, Commissioner

  
Tim Johnson, Commissioner

  
Jesse Knight, Commissioner

**ATTESTED:**

  
Angie Kirchner, County Clerk

