

WHEREAS, Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area Partnership is pursuing a National Heritage Area designation encompassing 49 counties, (26 in Kansas, 23 in Nebraska, equaling 35,792 square miles) with a total population of 650,000;

WHEREAS, Congress has designated National Heritage Areas which encompass vast amounts of privately held land in order to highlight areas of specific interest. Citizens of this county appreciate efforts to encourage economic development, but oppose any designations that would abridge the rights of any property owner; require any property owner to permit public access to the property; alter land use regulation; or diminish the authority of the state to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the National Heritage Area.

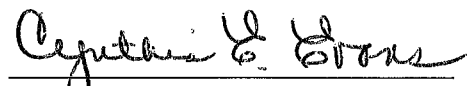
WHEREAS, A National Heritage Area designation invites interference in local affairs by special interest groups who claim to be stakeholders, who do not have the historical perspective or deeply felt stewardship responsibility of owners who have worked the land over several generations.

WHEREAS, the establishment a National Heritage Area in order to leverage federal and local matching funds based upon private property, illustrates a violation of private property rights;

WHEREAS, A fundamental interdependence exists between individual liberty and the ability to own property, the citizens of this county are very concerned that a National Heritage Area designation would deprive landowners of their ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Gosper County opposes the National Heritage Area designation of the 49-county region aforementioned, and likewise opposes the inclusion of this county within the 49-county designation map and does not wish to confer upon an unelected regional management entity the ability to establish or influence land use policy within the boundaries of this county.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS th26 DAY OF July, 2021


Cynthia Evans, County Clerk


Terry Lerdall, Chairman



WHEREAS, many of Gosper County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize and/or depend upon the private ownership of land and its resources, including, but not limited to, livestock grazing, agricultural and horticultural activities, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation;

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

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);

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Oder 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;

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, approximately 680 million acres of our Nations lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources;

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;

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Nebraska, and in particular rural counties such as Gosper County whose citizens depend on the private ownership of land for their livelihoods;

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Gosper County as expressed in the County's Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 1990 as amended.

WHEREAS, conversion of land from private ownership to federal ownership typically results in removal of said land from the tax rolls of the applicable taxing entity, whereby diminishing the pool of total tax revenue available, and causing a potential for the burden of increased taxation for the remaining owners of privately held land;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 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 2030.11

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

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nations land in their 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 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.
3. 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.
4. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes the use of global climate change as a justification to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
5. The Board also maintains that any 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 of 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 wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Gosper County, its businesses, and its citizens.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS th26 DAY OF July, 2021

Cynthia G. Evans
Cynthia Evans, County Clerk



Terry B. Lerdall
Terry Lerdall, Chairman