

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
COUNTY OF KEITH

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Keith County, Nebraska, held at the Keith County Courthouse on April 14, 2021, there were present:

Chairman Corey Crandall, Lane Anderson, Joan Ervin, Toney Krajewski and Dale Schroeder

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04  
AMENDED TO REPLACE RESOLUTION NO 2021-31  
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND  
PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, Keith County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Nebraska for which the Board of County Commissioners: Chairman Corey Crandall, Lane Anderson, Joan Ervin, Toney Krajewski and Dale Schroeder are authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Keith County containing about 710,400 acres of land situated in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns approximately 1.1 acres of the land(United States Post Office and WAPA Substation)within the County, and no Federal Land Management Agencies.; and

WHEREAS, approximately 684,000 acres (nearly 96.9%) of privately owned land in Keith County are not protected with perpetual conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, Central Nebraska Public Power leases to the Nebraska Game and Parks approximately 37,196 acres which includes Clear Creek Wildlife along with Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala. *EXHIBIT A*; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wild land, wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

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

WHEREAS, many of Keith County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including farming, ranching, recreational industries, hunting, and fishing;

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Nebraska economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social well-being of Keith 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 Aboard (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, 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 Keith County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Keith County as expressed in Keith Counties Comprehensive Plan, adopted with updates and amended on May 23, 2018 which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Keith County. *EXHIBIT B*; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 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 Keith 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 the designation of lands in Keith County as 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.
3. 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.

4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, including the doctrine of Nebraska's Constitution Article XV-5 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 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 an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

6. 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 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 Keith County, its businesses, and its citizens.

7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and

DATED this 18th day of August, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KEITH COUNTY, STATE OF NEBRASKA

By: Corey Crandall Corey Crandall, Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

Lane Anderson  
Lane Anderson

Toney Krajewski  
Toney Krajewski

Joan Ervin  
Joan Ervin

Dale Schroeder  
Dale Schroeder

ATTEST:

Sandra K. Olson Sandra K Olson  
Keith County Clerk