

MODEL RESOLUTION OPPOSING 30 X 30

The following language can be modified and passed by your county, special districts and even associations. Check out the website to see examples of what other counties have passed across the nation.

Once you've passed a resolution make sure to send it in to ASL to get your community on the map.

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

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

WHEREAS, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the productive use of the natural resources within the County's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, private property rights are guaranteed full protection under the Constitution of [State], as well as, the Constitution of the United States, which prohibit the erosion of these rights for a public purpose; 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, Secretary of Commerce, Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality, and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least thirty (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, an estimated 700 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state by 2030, 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 goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and water in the United States is a public purpose, not voted on or consented to by the people, Congress, or the [State] Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program seeks to replace the decision-making of independent Landowners who have been caring for these lands for generations without federal mandates and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, placing lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economy of [State], and counties, such as [Name] whose citizens depend on the land for their security and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, lands placed under permanent conservation reduce the value of that parcel of land while increasing the tax burden on other landowners and industries to make up the property valuation difference; and

WHEREAS, federal conservation programs artificially drive up the cost of, and directly compete with, the working landowners who depend on the ability to lease or purchase those lands for the production of the food, fiber, energy and minerals our nation requires; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies, and programs of [Name].

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of [Name] County, [State] as follows:

1. WThe Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of lands within our jurisdiction.
2. The Board further opposes the designation and use of lands in [Name] County to be included as a part of the "30 x 30" program, whether these be through conservation programs, easements, or other federal or state designations 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 [Name] laws 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 [State] law.
5. The Board opposes and disagrees with using any public purpose, including global climate change, 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 sellers/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 well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.
7. The Board requires that any proposed federal land acquisitions within their jurisdiction have the consent of the Board of Commissioners. This includes any transfer of conservation easements from land trusts to the federal government.
8. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the [State] Department of Agriculture, [State] Attorney General, Governor [Name] and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 202_.