

1 **RESOLUTION NO. _____**

2 **SYNOPSIS:** Temporary Pause And Coordinated Review of Major Energy Infrastructure

3 **INTRODUCED BY:** Planning & Zoning Committee

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5 **To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Columbia County:**

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7 WHEREAS, Columbia County and its towns and villages are facing significant proposed
8 energy infrastructure, including the Columbia Wind Project, transmission and interconnection
9 facilities, substations, battery storage, and related infrastructure; and,

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11 WHEREAS, these projects may create cumulative impacts involving public health and
12 safety, emergency response, roads, agriculture, property, waterways, natural resources, land use,
13 and local government services; and,

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15 WHEREAS, affected towns and villages have their own lawful permitting, health and
16 safety, emergency management, road, and other governmental responsibilities, including
17 requirements consistent with Wis. Stat. § 66.0401 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 128; and,

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19 WHEREAS, coordinated County, town, and village review is necessary to ensure local
20 impacts and permitting requirements are adequately evaluated and represented in PSC Docket
21 9836-CE-100 and other applicable proceedings.

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23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbia County Board establishes,
24 to the extent permitted by Wisconsin law, a twelve-month pause on new discretionary County
25 permits, approvals, authorizations, and agreements for major energy infrastructure and associated
26 facilities to allow coordinated local-government review.

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this period Columbia County shall
29 coordinate with affected towns and villages to:

- 30 1. Identify and recognize applicable County, town, and village permitting
31 requirements;
32 2. Evaluate the combined and cumulative local impacts of generation,
33 transmission, substations, battery storage, and related infrastructure;
34 3. Coordinate participation in PSC proceedings, including intervention and use
35 of appropriate legal and technical experts;
36 4. Support affected towns and village in exercising their lawful permitting and
37 governmental responsibilities; and
38 5. Develop recommendations for coordinated review of major energy
39 infrastructure projects.

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants shall be requested to consult immediately
42 and directly with affected towns and villages regarding applicable local permitting and
43 procedural requirements.

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45 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution neither supports nor opposes any
46 particular energy project and shall not interfere with PSC jurisdiction or conflict with local
47 ordinances and Wisconsin state statutes. Its purpose is to provide Columbia County and affected
48 towns and villages sufficient time and resources to coordinate their review, evaluate local
49 impacts, participate meaningfully in the PSC process, and fulfill their respective permitting and
50 governmental responsibilities before irreversible decisions are made.

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52 Fiscal Note: None

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54 Fiscal Impact: Unknown

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Joel Winograd

Tess Carr

John Miller, Secretary

Andrew Kolberg, Vice Chair

Jeffrey Leckwee, Chair

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE