

RESOLUTION 2025 - 19

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA
RESOLUTION AND STATEMENT OF FACTS

WHEREAS, the duly appointed Planning Commission of Knox County, Nebraska has prepared amendments to the Knox County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission gave public notice as required by Nebraska law of a hearing held on May 6, 2025 at The Barn at God's Country, 53174 Hwy 84, Center, Nebraska;

WHEREAS, the public hearing was held pursuant to said notice and all statements received at the hearing have been duly considered by the Planning Commission;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the amendments and makes its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors ("Board") for its approval;

WHEREAS, the Board has established the following factual findings as the reasons for the Resolution:

1. Commercial WECS (as defined in Knox County Zoning Regulation section 8.08.03) and CSCS (as defined in Knox County Zoning Regulation section 8.23.01) would significantly decrease property values near any wind towers and solar panels, causing economic harm and direct financial loss to the owners of the affected real estate.
2. When operating, commercial WECS developments emit constant noise and shadow flicker which disturbs nearby residents causing them mental and physical health harm.
3. Commercial WECS and CSCS energy developments cause significant view-scape pollution and are not consistent with the rural character of Knox County.
4. A commercial WECS development presents a substantial health and safety issue to crop dusting planes and reduces the area that can be safely dusted.
5. The Comprehensive Plan states that Knox County should encourage economic development projects that do not conflict with the agricultural character of the county. Knox County Comprehensive Plan 2020 at 28.

6. The Comprehensive Plan states the total land in farms is 82% of all of Knox County's land. *Id.* at 26.
7. Commercial WECS would decrease the existing revenue for tourism businesses in Knox County and would discourage growth in hunting, fishing, and water sports. Tourism is an important part of the Knox County economy and it creates a non-agricultural revenue stream, thus, diversifying the economy.
8. Commercial wind turbine towers have a history of killing birds; including federally protected birds.
9. The Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Lake are the northern border of Knox County. New residential real estate development would be reduced or eliminated in Hill, Herrick, Frankfort, and North Frankfort townships if additional commercial WECS developments were permitted. New residential real estate adds to the taxable value of Knox County and, hence, to the tax revenue for the County.
10. Commercial WECS and CSCS panels are an industrial use that manufacture electricity which is inconsistent with the agricultural character of the county.
11. Currently, there are no pre-existing high-capacity electrical lines to transmit significant quantities of electricity from Knox County to more populated areas. Furthermore, Nebraska Public Power District has not acquired all of the easements necessary to build high-capacity transmission lines from Knox County.
12. The highest and best use of real estate in Knox County is for the efficient production of food rather than the inefficient production of electricity.
13. CSCS panels are tilted and, during heavy rain, water will flow from the CSCS panels and onto the ground. Hence, lower elevation farmland of adjoining landowners will, more likely than not, be adversely affected with soil erosion.
14. Commercial WECS, CSCS developments and battery energy storage systems are susceptible of catching on fire and the local volunteer fire departments do not have the proper equipment to contain or extinguish electrical fires of this nature. There are also concerns regarding toxic chemicals that might be

released into the air and onto the land in the event of fire, thus, affecting the health of Knox County residents.

15. It is the public policy of Nebraska and, Nebraska law requires, that Nebraska Public Power District and Omaha Public Power District produce and sell only reliable electricity. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§70-1001, 70-1001.01(11), 70-1301, and 70-1501. Wind and solar power are inherently unreliable due to their intermittent nature. Intermittent power is not dispatchable. On April 28, 2025, the country of Spain experienced a nationwide blackout because its electrical grid had too much unreliable solar and wind energy.
16. Under current federal law, the owners of commercial WECS and CSCS developments are entitled to substantial federal income tax credits. The current federal debt is approximately \$36 trillion and the current year federal budget is in deficit. Hence, any new commercial WECS or CSCS development in Knox County would add to the \$36 trillion federal debt which current and future Knox County residents will be obligated to pay.
17. An Executive Order by the President of the United States titled, "Unleashing American Energy" and dated January 20, 2025, states that it is the policy of the United States to encourage the development of oil, natural gas, coal, hydropower, biofuels, critical mineral, and nuclear energy resources.
18. The establishment, operation, or maintenance of any new commercial WECS or CSCS would be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, convenience, order, prosperity, comfort, or general welfare of Knox County and its residents.
19. Finally, that no one specific finding listed above, in and of itself, serves as the lone or primary reason for voting in the affirmative on the Resolution, but Supervisors voting for the Resolution did so based on agreement with all or most of the findings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Supervisors that it accepts the report and recommendations of the Planning Commission dated May 6, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Supervisors that the Comprehensive Plan is amended as per the redlined stricken language from Chapter 9 as set out in the Planning Commission report of May 6, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Supervisors that section 8.08 Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Systems and section 8.23.05 Commercial Solar Conversion Systems are repealed and stricken, in their entirety, from the Knox County Zoning Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Supervisors that any new commercial WECS or CSCS energy developments are banned and prohibited;

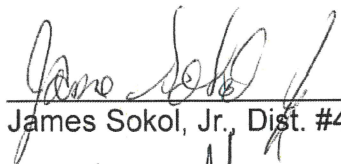
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the actions of Knox County Supervisors in banning commercial WECS and CSCS are in the best interests of the public health, safety, convenience, order, prosperity and welfare of Knox County and its present and future residents and the demonstrable benefit to agricultural and recreational land in Knox County;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Supervisors that nothing in this Resolution applies to the Crofton Bluffs and Elkhorn Ridge wind energy developments; and

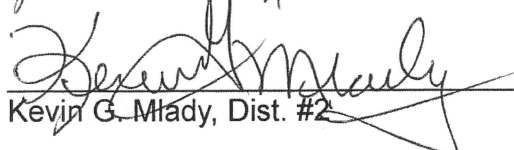
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Supervisors that this Resolution is effective immediately and shall be published in the newspapers of record for Knox County, Nebraska.

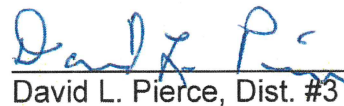
DATED this 11th day of June, 2025.

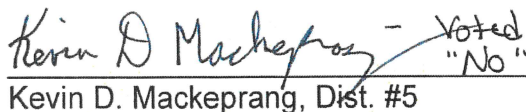
KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

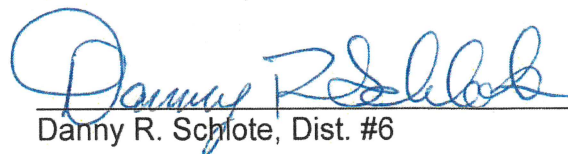

James Sokol, Jr., Dist. #4, Chairman

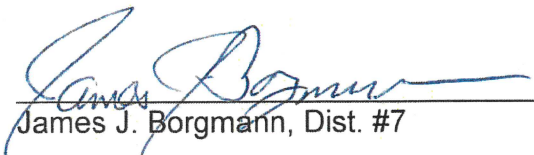

Martin J. O'Connor, Dist. #1


Kevin G. Mlady, Dist. #2

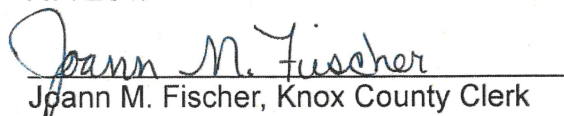

David L. Pierce, Dist. #3

 - Voted "No"
Kevin D. Mackeprang, Dist. #5


Danny R. Schlote, Dist. #6


James J. Borgmann, Dist. #7

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

