

TOWN OF STERLING RESOLUTION 2026-1

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 765kV HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH THE TOWN OF STERLING, VERNON COUNTY AND THE DRIFTLESS AREA

WHEREAS, the Town of Sterling lies within the nationally recognized Driftless Area, a uniquely fragile landscape defined by steep ridges, cold-water trout streams, karst geology, and highly erodible soils that are particularly vulnerable to large-scale infrastructure disturbance; and

WHEREAS, the proposed high-voltage transmission line would require extensive clearing, construction corridors, blasting, and long-term maintenance that would fragment wildlife habitat, disrupt agricultural lands, and permanently alter the natural character of the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed LRTP project #26 (765 kV line) is a regional backbone system intended to transport electricity to distant market such as Chicago and points east, providing zero local benefit to the residents of Sterling while imposing 200-foot industrial towers upon our land, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sterling's agricultural economy depends on productive farmland, livestock operations, and regenerative farming systems that could be adversely affected by land fragmentation, easement restrictions, soil disruption, and concerns regarding electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure to livestock; and

WHEREAS, property owners face potential declines in land value and long-term uncertainty, and Vernon County's tourism economy—driven by its scenic beauty, trout streams, outdoor recreation, and rural character—would be negatively affected; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that such continuous industrial noise and electromagnetic interference disrupts the natural environment, negatively impacting wildlife reproductive cycles, bird and amphibian communications and migratory patterns.

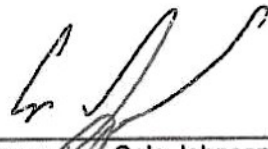
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Sterling Town Board formally and unequivocally opposes the proposed high-voltage transmission line within the Town of Sterling, Vernon County and the Driftless Area, finding that this region is not suitable for such development and that the project poses substantial risks to public health, safety, and welfare, as well as to environmental integrity, agricultural viability, economic stability, and cultural resources.

Submitted to the Town Board for consideration this 18th day of June 2026

Adopted this 18 Day of June 2026


Chairman Kevin Walleser


Supervisor Cole Johnson

Abstained from Vote
Supervisor Randy Nigh

Kay Yanske
Clerk Kay Yanske