

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE XCEL ENERGY BAYFIELD SECOND CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, Xcel Energy has proposed a Bayfield Second Circuit Transmission Project in six municipalities, including the Town of \_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of the 25-mile second circuit will require county approval of a land use permit for a new substation and approval of a right-of-way through county forest land; and

**WHEREAS**, it is county policy that "utility improvements shall be planned in a collaborative way with surrounding jurisdictions," and specifically to "become more involved with public utility companies in planning and development of services within Bayfield County" and to "communicate with surrounding jurisdictions including Bayfield County and the surrounding towns on utility needs and concerns" (Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan); and

**WHEREAS**, coordinated action by the county and affected municipalities will improve the net result of utility infrastructure development in Bayfield County; and

**WHEREAS**, power lines create permanent easements over public and private property in perpetuity that if improperly planned, could cause significant environmental degradation, financial loss, potential health impacts, and diminish the aesthetic characteristics of our town; and

**WHEREAS**, Xcel Energy's proposed route crosses seven high-quality trout streams bordered by sensitive and highly erodible soils that could be disturbed by the project; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been inadequate information and communication provided to the Township officials, property owners, and the general public concerning the new proposed project which is significantly different than the project proposed in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, decision makers and the public have had inadequate time to evaluate and respond to the new proposed project; and

**WHEREAS**, Xcel has expressed willingness to adjust their previously planned timeline so that more public input could help shape the proposal before it goes to the Public Service Commission;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Town of \_\_\_\_\_ requests that the Bayfield County Board delay action on the easement requested by Xcel Energy for the proposed Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Bayfield County Board allow the affected townships the time necessary to form a study group composed of representatives from each township including the Town of Washburn, the Town of Bayfield, the Town of Bayview, the Town of Barksdale, and the Town of Eileen; and that the study group is charged with the responsibility to examine the evidence of need, alternative means of addressing the need, and possible alternative routes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Bayfield County Board establish and describe a process to convey the findings of the study group to the public for adequate review and comment prior to making a decision regarding the easement for Xcel Energy on Bayfield County land.

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Date approved