

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TOWN/COUNTY COLLABORATION TO REVIEW XCEL ENERGY'S PROPOSED SECOND CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy recently proposed a Bayfield Second Circuit Transmission Project to construct a 25-mile second transmission line in six municipalities, including the Town of Washburn and 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, Xcel Energy's preliminary design route crosses seven high-quality trout streams, including the Sioux River and Fourmile Creek in the Town of Washburn, bordered by sensitive and highly erodible soils that could be disturbed by the project, 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, rather than piecemeal decisions, will improve the net effects of utility infrastructure development in Bayfield County, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washburn Comprehensive Plan calls for land use decisions that protect the town's streams, scenic character, and soils that become highly erodible when forest cover is removed, and

WHEREAS, a 25-mile transmission line, if planned without adequate local input and knowledge of affected towns and the county, could cause significant environmental degradation, financial loss, and reduction in the scenic character of the county, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Washburn does hereby recommend that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors postpone acting on the easement requested by Xcel Energy through county forest until the county and affected towns develop a collaborative recommendation regarding the need and possible best locations for the added infrastructure

Resolution adopted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

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Bruce Hokenson, Chair, Town of Washburn

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John Hartzell, Supervisor

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Stephen Tetzner, Supervisor

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Kerry Tetzner, Clerk