

ARTHUR COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Resolution No. 2021-__

Opposing the Federal Government's "30 x 30" Land Preservation Goal

WHEREAS, The County of Arthur, Nebraska (hereinafter "Arthur County") is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, for which the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Arthur County contains approximately 460,800 acres of land situated in western Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently owns only 40 acres of land in Arthur County; and

WHEREAS, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition and culture of Arthur County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of Arthur County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including large-scale and family ranching and farming operations, which are themselves traditionally exceptional stewards of the land; and

WHEREAS, these industries are vitally important components of the Nebraska economy and are major contributors to the economic and social well-being of Arthur County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008, entitled "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7619); and

WHEREAS, Section 203 of Executive Order 1400 establishes a National Climate Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Section 216(a) of Executive Order 14008 directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and the heads of other relevant agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030" (the "30 x 30 goal"); and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 goal would require that some 680 million acres of our nation's lands be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation; left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Nebraska, and in particular rural counties such as Arthur County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods, and whose counties, schools and other governmental units depend on a robust real estate tax base to provide funds for essential government services; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 goal, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Arthur County as expressed in the Arthur County Comprehensive Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Arthur County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. The Board opposes the Federal Government's 30 x 30 goal of permanently preserving 30 percent of the nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of privately owned lands.

2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Arthur County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, which would restrict public access to such lands and prevent the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands at the hands of the Federal Government.

3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in Arthur County, recognizing the nation's need for domestic sources of grain, livestock, minerals, energy, timber, food and fiber.

4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, including the doctrine of first in right, first in time and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within

Arthur County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Nebraska law.

5. The Board maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the Federal Government's 30 x 30 goal should be acquired only from willing landowners for full and fair market value for the rights and interests acquired, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Arthur County. The Board categorically opposes any such acquisitions made through condemnation, eminent domain, regulatory compulsion or federal mandate.

6. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

Adopted this 29th day of April, 2021.

Attest:

Becky Swanson
County Clerk



[Signature]
Chairperson

[Signature]
Commissioner

[Signature]
Commissioner