

RESOLUTION NO. 21-11

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRPERSON AND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WAYNE, NEBRASKA, as follows:

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

WHEREAS, Wayne County contains approximately 262,700 acres of land situated in Northeast Nebraska;

WHEREAS, the federal government owns less than 1% of this land within the County,

WHEREAS, approximately 1330 acres (approximately ½%) of privately owned land in Wayne County is currently protected with perpetual conservation easements;

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

WHEREAS, the wellbeing health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend upon the private ownership of land and the use of its resources;

WHEREAS, many of Wayne County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize and/or rely upon the private ownership of land and its resources, including, but not limited to, livestock grazing, agricultural and horticultural activities, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting, and other outdoor recreation;

WHEREAS, these industries are essential components of the Nebraska economy and are significant contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Wayne County and its citizens;

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tracking the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (86 Fed Reg 7,619);

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, Presidential Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and water in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program.

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, approximately 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently-preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources;

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;

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 Wayne County, whose citizens depend on the private ownership of land for their livelihoods;

WHEREAS, conversion of land from private ownership to federal ownership typically results in removal of said land from the tax rolls of the applicable taxing entity, whereby diminishing the pool of total tax revenue available, and causing a potential for the burden of increased taxation for the remaining owners of privately held land;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal 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."

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

1. The Board opposes the 30x30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's land in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Wayne /County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wilderness preserves, and open space, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing after rights and water use, and opposes a federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and used authorized under Nebraska law.
5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes the use of global climate change as a justification to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Wayne County, its businesses, and its citizens.
7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF JULY, 2021.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



Dean Benbach

James Rabe



Attest:

Debra Finn

Debra Finn, Wayne County Clerk

Schedule X: Agricultural Records: Ag Land Market Area Totals
Schedule X should be a summation of all Schedule IXa-d that you have.

County ID 90

	76. Irrigated Land		77. Dry Land		78. Grass Land	
	Acres	Value	Acres	Value	Acres	Value
Urban	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
SubUrban	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Rural	48,960.28	275,333,605	189,016.52	942,792,835	21,023.23	46,107,710
Total	48,960.28	275,333,605	189,016.52	942,792,835	21,023.23	46,107,710

	79. Waste Land		80. Other Ag Land		81. Ag Exempt	
	Acres	Value	Acres	Value	Acres	Value
Urban	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
SubUrban	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Rural	3,342.22	334,245	364.97	684,370	425.28	425.28
Total	3,342.22	334,245	364.97	684,370	512.04	512.04

82. Total Taxable (Sum lines 76 thru 80)	
Acres	Value
Urban	0.00
SubUrban	0.00
Rural	1,265,252,765
Total	1,265,252,765

Schedule XIIIb: Agricultural Records: Grass Land Detail Totals

115. Pure Grass		116. CRP		117. Timber	
Acres	Value	Acres	Value	Acres	Value
19,691.29	41,037,900	1,331.94	5,069,810	0.00	0

118. Total Grass Detail (Sum lines 115, 116, 117)	
Acres	Value
21,023.23	46,107,710