



Quay County Government

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RESOLUTION NO. 41 RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS

WHEREAS, the Biden administration set a national goal that America would transition to 100% renewable electrical sources by 2035, which would require major upgrades to our electrical transmission system capacity; and

WHEREAS, this goal is based on an administrative decision to sign the Paris Accord, an international agreement that was never ratified by the United States Senate, and certainly does not reflect the views of a majority of people in Quay County; and

WHEREAS, this initiative to transition to a fully renewable energy grid was adopted with no public process, and without congressional approval, even though this exponential growth would create an electric grid unable to handle the increased load requirements; ultimately requiring substantially higher costs for consumers, but big gains for “green” energy brokers; and

WHEREAS, to address the increased load requirements that this, poorly conceived, transition would cause, the government has empowered the Department of Energy to create National Interest Electric Transition Corridors to interconnect the new solar and wind generation facilities that will be needed to accomplish this task; to be built largely in areas with cheap land and low taxes; and

WHEREAS, in our State, these National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors vary from five to fifteen miles in width, and will require approximately 1,841,000 acres to be taken from eight New Mexico counties, using the federal power of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, there is no precedent for such widespread use of eminent domain by federal agencies, which federal courts and decades of practice demonstrate to traditionally be the province of state and local governments; there is no justification for a federal agency to assert such powers, especially before state and local governments have been asked to participate in this important process; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has established precedents that federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy, cannot presume the fundamental authority to force regulatory changes in the American economy without clear authority from Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has ruled in this manner on a wide array of cases, most recently, *West Virginia v. EPA* (2022), in which the Court ruled that only Congress has the authority to require a complete shift in energy sources for electric generation which is the intent of the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors; and

WHEREAS, the court found that regulatory agencies attempting” to adopt a regulatory program that Congress had conspicuously and repeatedly declined to enact itself” would create “unprecedented power over American industry” and that an agency would require “clear Congressional authorization” to require such a change; and

WHEREAS, the current plan to build new and massive wind and solar facilities, and to use eminent domain powers to build National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors to transport that power to the grid, is simply an attempt to circumvent Congress and the Laws of the Land, fundamentally changing the U. S. economy without regard to the system of checks and balances which assure the American people are represented; and

WHEREAS, removing large swaths of land, both public and private from our New Mexico counties will have a devastating effect on our already strained resources and impede our ability to provide infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, law enforcement, and other emergency services by the loss of our tax base; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the state of New Mexico, its businesses, and its citizens depend on these lands and productive use of the resources within our Counties; and

WHEREAS, many of Quay County’s businesses and citizens are involved in, or otherwise, depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including, but not limited to, agricultural crop production, livestock grazing, industry, manufacturing, oil and gas exploration and production, electrical generation, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of Quay County and the State of New Mexico economies and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of the county and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy failed to provide adequate assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors or to even seek to include Quay County in any of the planning processes through coordination with local governments; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental protection Act of 1970 (NEPA), and a long-standing body of other laws and traditions require federal agencies undertaking major actions with environmental consequences to consult, cooperate, and coordinate their actions with state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, if the ability to transmit power from the places where it is generated, to the places where it is to be utilized was the need; wouldn't the utility easement system that has been utilized for more than the last century continue to fulfill that requirement without the need for condemnation of lands with huge swaths being taken from beneficial use; and

WHEREAS, if the goal was to provide efficient energy to the areas that need electrical power, then wouldn't the power transmission developments be built near the end users to avoid transmission losses of massive amounts of energy thereby negating the "green" component; and

WHEREAS, once again, it appears that the federal government is being disingenuous and covering up their true intent to control our Nations lands, waters, and other resources, subsidizing "green" energy, impeding the oil and gas industry, while fulfilling the 30x30 land grab objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Quay County, New Mexico opposes the construction of the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors for the following reasons:

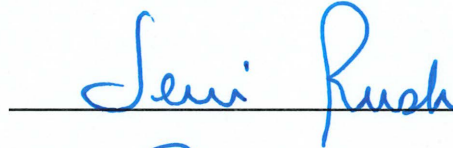
1. Quay County finds the creation of the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors is in conflict with Quay County's policies and objectives as described in the Quay County Comprehensive Plan, and it will result in substantial loss of private property, beneficial use of lands for agriculture and industry, and permanently harm our economic security.
2. Quay County finds that the Department of Energy failed to provide notice and coordinate the Southwestern Grid Connector Corridor with the County.
3. Quay County believes that only Congress has the authority to acquire lands on this scale and is certainly the only entity who can fund the acquisitions.
4. Quay County perceives this as nothing more than another attempted federal agency overreach to fulfill the goals of the 30x30 land grab which was re-branded as "America the Beautiful".

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Quay County directs all County agencies and departments to withhold all approvals, permits, funding or other permissions that may be required for the Department of Energy to acquire or manage fee-title lands, or an interest in lands such as a utility easement, or Right- of-Way within the County until such time as the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors have been coordinated with the County to the satisfaction of the County.

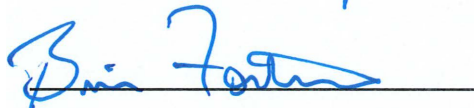
DONE THIS 24th day of February 2025 at Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

BOARD OF QUAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jerri Rush, Chairman



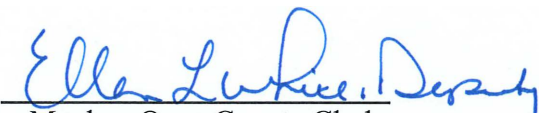
Brian Fortner, Commissioner



Dallas Dowell, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Veronica Manley, Quay County Clerk