Guide to Fight the

30 x 30 Land Grab

February 14, 2021

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Prepared by:

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**Instructions for Adopting Resolution Opposing the 30 x 30 Agenda**

**1. Select the Appropriate Resolution**

Two model resolutions have been prepared: (1) the first is designed for Counties with significant areas of federal land ownership; and (2) the second is designed for Counties where the land is primarily privately owned. These Resolutions provide language for opposing the 30 x 30 agenda and are intended to be modified, as appropriate, by the approving entity. Both of these resolutions can also be used by a special district, or even a State.

**2. Modify the Resolution Language to Reflect the Unique Characteristics of the Community**

Local priorities and characteristics should be incorporated into the Resolution as appropriate. Additionally, if your state has specific statutory provisions that protect private property rights, include these in your resolution. For example, the State of Nebraska allows Counties to approve or deny special use permits for easements if they are inconsistent with local plans and priorities, including conservation easements. Nebraska Counties should add a provision to their resolution noting this authority.

**3. Adopt the Resolution**

**4. Notify Relevant State and Federal Entities**

Send copies of the Resolution to your State and Federal Representatives, as well as to the Department of Interior, who is tasked with preparing the implementation report for 30 x 30. The current contact and address for DOI is:

Scott de la Vega, Acting Secretary

Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington DC 20240

**5. Send Copy to ASL**

Send a copy of the Resolution and key contact information to American Stewards of Liberty to be added to the national list of local governments opposing the 30 x 30 program.

American Stewards of Liberty

asl@americanstewards.us

PO Box 801

Georgetown, Texas 78627

**(Federal Land County – Model Resolution Opposing the 30 x 30 Program)**

STATE OF [Insert State]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- \_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S “30 X 30” LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

 WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [State] for which the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) is authorized to act; and

 WHEREAS, [County] containing about [number] acres of land situated in [area of state]; and

 WHEREAS, the federal government owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing over [number] acres of these federal lands [if have appropriate map insert the following: “as illustrated in ***Exhibit A***, attached hereto”]; and

 WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements [if have appropriate map insert the following: “as illustrated in ***Exhibit A***, attached hereto”]; and

 WHEREAS, [Describe prominent protected federal and state land designations within the county such as Parks, Wilderness and Refuges. Include map if have available]; and

 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; and

 WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in [Name] County, the well- being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used and access to these lands; and

 WHEREAS, many of [Name] County’s businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the forest products industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

 WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] 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 Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

 WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President 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 waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

 WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 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; 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 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of [Name] County, and injure the County’s businesses and its citizens by depriving them of access to public lands and national forest system lands and preventing the productive use of these lands’ resources; and

 WHEREAS, the withdrawal of some 680 million acres of federal lands from multiple use and placement of such lands in permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many western states, including [State], and in particular rural counties such as [Name] County whose citizens depend on access to federal lands for their livelihoods; and

 WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with [Name] as also required by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA); and

 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 [Name] County, [State], as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands 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 public lands and national forests in [Name] County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, 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 management of the public lands and the national forests under principles of multiple use and sustained yield, recognizing the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber, and in careful coordination with [Name] County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies, as required by law.

4. The Board supports maintaining and enhancing public access to public lands and national forests and opposes road closures, road decommissioning, moratoria on road construction, and other limitations on public access for the purpose of fulfilling the 30 x 30 program’s objectives.

5. The Board recognizes and supports the State of [State’s] water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] law.

6. 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 an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program’s objectives.

7. The Board maintains that the designation of public lands and national forest lands as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land to fulfill the 30 x 30 program’s objectives may lawfully occur, if at all, only through the planning process mandated by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (for public lands) or the National Forest Management Act (for national forest lands), including public notice and an opportunity to comment, analysis and disclosure of the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens, and careful coordination with [Name] County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies.

8. The Board also maintains that any non-federal 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 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 well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.

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

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[Name of Clerk]
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]

**(Private Land County – Model Resolution Opposing the 30 x 30 Program)**

STATE OF [Insert State]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- \_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S “30 X 30” LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

 WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [State] for which the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) is authorized to act; and

 WHEREAS, [County] containing about [number] acres of land situated in [area of state]; and

 WHEREAS, the federal government owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing over [number] acres of these federal lands [if map of lands is available, insert the following: “as illustrated in ***Exhibit A***, attached hereto”]; and

 WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements [if map is available, insert the following: “as illustrated in ***Exhibit A***, attached hereto”]; and

 WHEREAS, [Describe prominent protected federal and state land designations within the County such as Parks, Wilderness and Refuges. Include map if have available]; and

 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; and

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

 WHEREAS, many of [Name] County’s businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including [ Insert active industries in your area. Examples are the forest products industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation]; and

 WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] 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 Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

 WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President 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 waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

 WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 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; 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, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including [State], and in particular rural counties such as [Name] County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

 WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with [Name].; and

 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 [Name] County, [State], as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands 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 [Name] County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, 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 [State’s] water rights system, including the doctrine of [Insert applicable State water law principles, such as prior appropriation or rule of capture, etc] and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] 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 an excuse 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 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 well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[Name of Clerk]
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]