

RESOLUTION NO. 22-04

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LANDOWNER'S RIGHT TO "OPT OUT" NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, Woodson County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Kansas for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act: and

WHEREAS, Congress has designated National Heritage Areas which encompass vast amount of privately held land in order to highlight specific areas of interest. While the Citizens of Woodson County appreciate efforts to encourage economic development, National Heritage Areas would adversely affect private property rights by influencing local officials to pass zoning laws not otherwise needed and by altering well established processes for land use regulation; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of Woodson County oppose blanket designations that put dissenting private landowners in the unreasonable position of having to "opt out" of federally mandated boundaries and interfere with the deeply felt stewardship responsibility of owners who have worked the land over several generations and deprive landowners of there ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit; 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. 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 millions 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 the economies of the Citizens of Woodson County many of the County's businesses and citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that include livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, farming, recreational industries, hunting and fishing and other outdoor recreation.

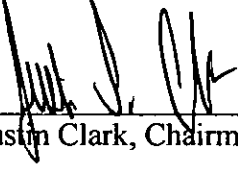
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Woodson County, Kansas, as follows:

1. The Board opposes Congressional establishment of a National Heritage Area System, that, along with the establishment of new National Heritage Areas, would include current National Heritage Areas such as Freedom's Frontier, National Heritage Corridor, National Heritage Partnership, etc., for the purpose of creating, reviewing or approving management plans by the Department of the Interior or any other Federal Agency and supports the rights of dissenting private landowners to "opt out" of those Areas
2. The Board opposes Executive Order 14008 and specifically Section 216 of Executive Order 14008 which allows the Secretary of Interior, 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, called the "30 X 30 program.
3. The Board further opposes the designation of public lands and national forests in Woodson County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Kansas' water rights system 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 Kansas Law.
5. 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 of full and fair market value of 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 Woodson County, its businesses, and its citizens.
6. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in Woodson County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, fiber etc. and supports the private use of land in support of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of Kansas.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage by the Board.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

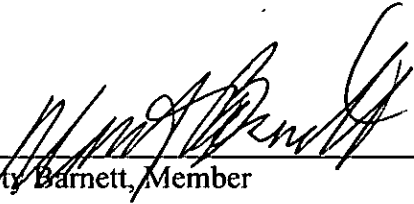
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WOODSON COUNTY, KANSAS



Justin Clark, Chairman

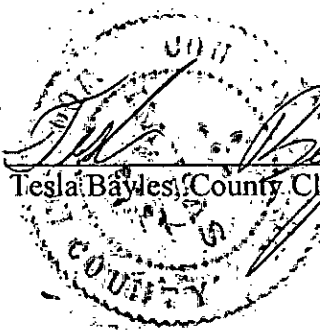
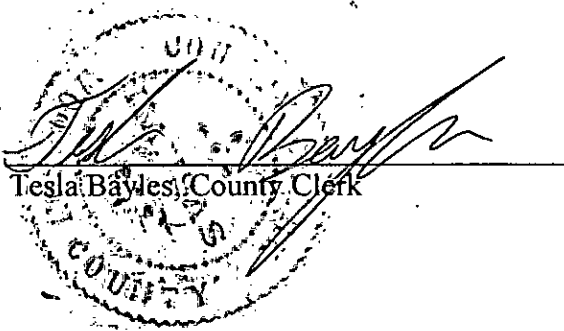


Wayne Faulkner, Vice Chairman



Monty Barnett, Member

ATTEST:



Tesla Bayles, County Clerk