

Public Statement August 5, 2026

Commissioners,

I want to address a claim we've heard many times — that Randolph County “can't tell a landowner or developer what they can do with their property” because we're a third-class county without zoning. That is not correct under Missouri law.

Missouri statutes give this Commission clear authority to regulate industrial solar, battery-storage facilities, and data centers — even without zoning. Under MO statute 192.300, counties may adopt ordinances to protect public health. Under statute 49.650, counties may regulate nuisances, stormwater, environmental impacts, emergency management, and road use. And under Chapters 229 and 231, counties control haul routes, weight limits, and road-damage bonds.

And we already regulate private land uses today. We regulate septic systems, wells, junkyards, cell towers, CAFO waste systems, subdivisions, road access, and nuisance conditions — all on private property, all without zoning. If we can regulate those, we can regulate industrial solar, battery storage, and data centers.

This matters because only six contracted landowners — covering 1,767 acres — are driving a project that will impact dozens of neighboring families and thousands of county residents. Property rights belong to everyone, not just the few who signed leases.

If the Commission believes zoning is necessary, state law provides the remedy: you can place zoning on the ballot. Choosing not to regulate is a policy choice — not a legal limitation.

I respectfully ask this Commission to use the authority it already has and adopt a Public-Health and Safety Ordinance to protect all Randolph County citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Mark Taylor

(573) 466-0329

mstaylor902@yahoo.com

preserveruralland@yahoo.com

<https://preserveruralland.com/>

CAFO = Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation