

RESOLUTION OF A TOWN GOVERNMENT IN THE COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE
TOWN OF LINCOLN

To: The Honorable Members of the Eau Claire County Board
Synopsis: Protecting Eau Claire Farmland and Opposing Expansions
of the Legal Definition of Approved Farmland Uses

Whereas; the Town of Lincoln has farmland in the Farmland Preservation District in Eau Claire County;

Whereas; the Town of Lincoln recognizes farmland must be protected and preserved for agricultural uses limited by the definition of farmland under Wisconsin Statute S 91.01 (2);

Whereas; the Town of Lincoln further recognizes the importance of local control in preserving farmland for agricultural uses defined by Wisconsin Statute S 91.01 (2);

Whereas; the Town of Lincoln strongly and absolutely opposes commercial wind and solar as an appropriate farmland use in A-P Zones:

Whereas; on March 25, 2025 the Eau Claire County Planning and Development Department recommended a zoning amendment, Ordinance No. 24-25/094, that potentially expands a particular definition of approved farmland use from Wisconsin Statute 591.01 (2) to 91.01 (3),

Whereas; the Department of Planning and Development did not seek the appropriate input of the Town to include the expansion of this definition; instead, the change was presented as a mere ministerial task necessary for legal consistency and the ordinance;

Whereas; while the Department of Planning and Development sought this change by presenting it as mere ministerial task necessary for legal consistency, the undersigned remains concerned that ANY definitional change to farmland under a zoning amendment could have unforeseen consequences and therefore should be more fully vetted before such an amendment takes place,

Whereas; the purpose of Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan is to guide and manage land use changes in a way that protects farmland, promotes sustainable agricultural practices, and supports the state's agricultural economy;

Whereas; the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan has been in the process of being updated since December of 2023.

Whereas; Eau Claire County is now in the process of selecting Farmland Preservation Steering Committee to revise and update the Farmland Preservation Plan;

Whereas; S 91.10(2) requires the Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan shall include the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan and shall maintain consistency between the Plans.

Whereas; the law of the State of Wisconsin also require consistency between the Farmland Preservation Plan and Eau Claire County's zoning ordinances in order to receive State certification;

Whereas; one of the vital purposes of the Farmland Preservation Plan is to outline requirements for zoning amendments, including the requirements that "once a new farmland preservation plan is adopted by Eau Claire County Board additional changes will be developed and adopted in order to implement the approved farmland preservation plan such changes include amendments to the Eau Claire's zoning ordinance, specifically in relation to the farmland preservation district;"

Whereas; based on the history of the revisions of the Farmland Preservation Plan to date, lead the undersigned Town representative to the conclusion that farmland in Eau Claire County is not being properly protected, particularly from the threat of commercial wind and solar;

Whereas; it is imperative that the Steering Committee consist of individuals committed to protecting Eau Claire farmland against commercial wind in the manner advocated by those such as Matt Krenz, Steve Strey and Dessy Johnson;

WHEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

- 1) The above-described Ordinance No. 24-25/094 be revoked.
- 2)The Farmland Preservation Plan the Steering Committee consists of individuals committed to protecting Eau Claire farmland against commercial wind in the manner advocated by those such as Matt Krenz, Steve Strey and Dessy Johnson and that the committee makeup not be deluded by membership supporting commercial wind and solar or include county employees; and
- 3)The Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee should adopt provisions consistent with this Resolution, including all of the proposed edits submitted by Matt Krenz and Steve Strey (attached) in the Farmland Preservation Plan, all to protect and preserve farmland for agricultural uses defined by Wisconsin Statute S 91.01 (2).
- 4)The County Board of Planning and Develop and the County Board of Supervisors should adopt zoning amendments consistent with the proposed edits in the Farmland Preservation Plan update that preclude commercial wind and solar from the A-P district and zoning amendments that protect farmland from state approved wind and solar developments.

SIGNATURES and DATES:

Matthew Krenz /s/ Matthew Krenz
Town Chair

Supervisors:

Dean Klingbeil /s/ Dean Klingbeil

Matthew Orysen /s/ Matthew Orysen

Sherri McCormick /s/Sherri McCormick
Clerk

Dated: 6.9.2025