

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNS OF ALBION, DUNKIRK, FULTON, AND PORTER

Supporting Wisconsin Legislation Providing Local Approval of Large-Scale Solar Energy Facilities

PURPOSE

This joint resolution expresses the support of the Towns of Albion, Dunkirk, Fulton, and Porter for renewed Wisconsin legislation requiring meaningful local approval before certain large-scale solar energy facilities may receive state authorization.

WHEREAS, Wisconsin towns are responsible for local land-use planning, roads, drainage, emergency services, agricultural preservation, and protection of the health, safety, and welfare of their residents, yet current state law provides towns with limited authority over the approval and regulation of large-scale solar energy facilities; and

WHEREAS, large-scale solar energy facilities may occupy hundreds or thousands of acres, while the towns and residents where those facilities are located bear the direct and long-term effects on agricultural land, roads, drainage, emergency response, neighboring properties, rural development patterns, and community character; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity framework under Wis. Stat. § 196.491 was enacted in 1975, decades before the emergence of modern utility-scale solar facilities having extensive land-use impacts; and

WHEREAS, the conversion and fragmentation of large areas of productive farmland for utility-scale solar development may reduce the availability of land for future agricultural use, weaken the agricultural economy, diminish Wisconsin's rich agricultural heritage, and fundamentally alter the rural character of affected communities; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials and residents possess direct knowledge of local comprehensive plans, agricultural conditions, drainage patterns, transportation infrastructure, emergency-service capabilities, neighboring land uses, environmental resources, and community priorities, but the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin may approve a large-scale solar energy facility without obtaining the approval of the town, village, or city in which the facility would be located; and

WHEREAS, **2025 Wisconsin Senate Bill 3** proposed requiring approval by each city, village, or town in which certain large-scale wind or solar energy projects would be located before the Public Service Commission could approve those projects; and

WHEREAS, similar local-approval provisions were included in amendments to **2025 Wisconsin Assembly Bill 493**, but neither legislative proposal received final approval before the conclusion of the 2025–2026 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Towns of Albion, Dunkirk, Fulton, and Porter recognize the importance of reliable and diverse energy resources but believe that state energy policy must also respect local self-government, protect productive agricultural land, and provide affected communities with meaningful authority over projects having substantial local impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Boards of the Towns of Albion, Dunkirk, Fulton, and Porter jointly support the reintroduction and enactment of legislation consistent with the local-approval provisions proposed in **2025 Wisconsin Senate Bill 3** and the related amendments to **2025 Wisconsin Assembly Bill 493**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such legislation should require the affirmative approval of each city, village, or town in which a qualifying large-scale solar energy facility would be located before the Public Service Commission may issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Certificate of Authority, or other state construction approval for the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Towns support a fair and transparent process that provides affected municipalities with timely notice, sufficient project information, an opportunity for public input, and a meaningful role in decisions affecting local land use, productive agricultural land, public infrastructure, public safety, and rural community character; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Towns urge the Wisconsin Legislature to work with towns, counties, affected residents, agricultural organizations, utilities, solar developers, conservation organizations, and other interested parties to enact legislation that balances Wisconsin's energy needs with local decision-making, protection of productive farmland, preservation of Wisconsin's agricultural heritage, responsible energy development, and the rights of affected communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Towns of Albion, Dunkirk, Fulton, and Porter are directed to transmit copies of this Joint Resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin, the members of the Wisconsin State Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly representing the four towns, the leadership of both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Towns Association, and such other public officials and organizations as the respective Town Boards determine appropriate.

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TOWN OF ALBION

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

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Town Chair

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Town Clerk

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TOWN OF DUNKIRK

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

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Town Chair

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Town Clerk

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TOWN OF FULTON

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

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Town Chair

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Town Clerk

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TOWN OF PORTER

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

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Town Chair

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Town Clerk