

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

October 19, 2023

Resolution 2023-024

Resolution: Local Control of Utility Scale Renewable Energy

- Whereas, In opposition to legislation to preempt local control for the siting and permitting of utility scale renewable facilities including solar, wind and large-scale battery storage facilities; and
- Whereas Executive Directive 2010-10 proposes to achieve 100% carbon neutrality in the state by 2050; and
- Whereas To meet the energy goals and to expand renewable energy projects in Michigan, Gov. Whitmer has proposed the Michigan Public Service Commission be the sole authority for the siting and permitting of utility-scale renewable projects, allowing these projects to be expedited; and
- Whereas By transferring this sole authority to the Michigan Public Service Commission, local authority will be preempted; and
- Whereas A township would be unable to determine the number, location, size, setback requirements, site plan approval, fire protection and emergency plan, volume levels, construction traffic routes, decommissioning plan or any other criteria for such solar, wind or large-scale battery facilities; and
- Whereas A township ordinance, rule, policy or requirement currently in place for solar, wind and large-scale solar facilities would be null and void; and
- Whereas All other energy facilities regulated by Michigan Public Service Commission must adhere to local zoning requirements; and
- Whereas The Michigan Townships Association opposes legislation that eliminates local government authority on the siting and permitting of said facilities that will be located in those communities for 20-50 years;

Therefore, Be It Resolved

That Washington Township of Gratiot County opposes legislation that would preempt local control in the siting and permitting of large-scale renewable energy facilities including solar, wind and large-scale battery storage facilities.

The foregoing resolution offered by Eric Whitford

Second offered by Nancy Rogers

