

# **TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE**

## **ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**Whereas** a 5,000-acre, 650-megawatt solar project currently known as The Ten Mile Creek Solar Project is being proposed by Xcel Energy to replace its current power plant (Allen S. King) in Bayport, MN to continue serving primarily energy customers in the State of Minnesota.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie, St. Croix County, Wisconsin has prided itself in being an “Exclusive Ag Zoning” area with a right-to-farm mentality allowing for family farms to thrive without interference from neighboring parcels or competing interests impeding primarily farm land use.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie has adopted their 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan on January 13, 2010 with the goals of protecting and preserving the “natural resources, farmlands, open/green spaces, and wildlife habitat that define the agricultural character of Erin Prairie” and “to promote sustainable agricultural practices that will preserve farming as a major economic activity as a way of life.”

**Whereas**, the vast majority of the Town of Erin Prairie contains “Prime Farmland” and some of Wisconsin’s best.

**Whereas**, most of the Town of Erin Prairie’s land is part of the St. Croix County Agriculture & Farm Preservation Comprehensive Plan adopted January 3, 2012 recognizing “that agricultural land is not undeveloped land waiting for other uses, but is a valuable and productive resource that supports a healthy agricultural industry.”

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie sits in the watershed of the Willow River (a Class II trout stream), the Kinnickinnic River (a Class I trout stream), Baldwin Pine Lake (providing public fishing through St. Croix County’s park and boat ramp) and Casey Lake Wildlife Area (a 364-acre Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area allowing public hunting opportunities).

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie has prided itself in being an area for family dairy farms to exist without the danger of stray voltage affecting dairy production and other livestock.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie is not immune from storms including major damage caused by a 2008 storm. And whereby, future storms could create shards from damaged solar panels during storms and inclement weather that can get into hay fields without detection causing fatal injury to livestock and harming soils for future root crops.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie sits primarily on shallow carbonate bedrock (limestone) allowing for past, current and future karst formations creating sinkholes, caves and underground drainage systems allowing rapid movement of underground water which is a super-highway of contaminants into groundwater.

**Whereas**, the consistent pounding of stakes into the expansive project area over years will have a large effect in creating additional karst in the carbonate bedrock, causing additional and ongoing threats to the Town of Erin Prairie's clean groundwater for the life of the project.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie has seen a karst formation cause the draining of Baldwin Pine Lake in the 1990's with a major operation to fill a sink hole and years to reestablish a sustainable fish population.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie has experienced and continues to experience the real financial and cleanup effect of PFAS ("forever chemicals") contamination based on its role as operator and contributor of a dump in 1980 that contaminated the groundwater for 14 homesteads that are still contaminated 45 years later.

**Whereas**. The Town of Erin Prairie is serviced by United Fire & Rescue and the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department, neither of which have the training, equipment or funding to handle the toxic, high heat and large-scale conditions created by a solar project fire.

**Whereas**, the Town of Erin Prairie is in close proximity to two airports (Baldwin Airport and New Richmond Regional Airport) which may cause glare, radar interference and wildlife impact on airplanes during takeoff and landing.

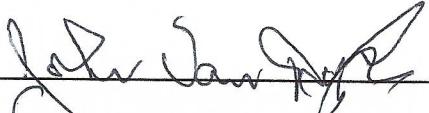
**Whereas**, Xcel has not been forthcoming in its public meetings as to the exact location of the known placement of the solar panels, provisions to protect the surrounding property owners, maintenance of the project, ground vegetation, soil erosion, damage to lakes, rivers, creeks, and wildlife refuges and the decommission of the solar project along with their need to prematurely close their fully functioning King Plant.

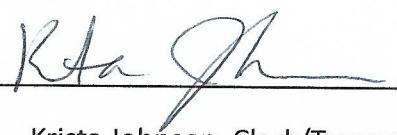
**Whereas**, the expansive nature, size and scope of Xcel's Ten Mile Creek Solar Project will forever change the Town of Erin Prairie from its agricultural roots and self-determined agricultural destiny.

**Now therefore** be it resolved, that the Town of Erin Prairie, St. Croix County, Wisconsin oppose the development of the Ten Mile Creek Solar Project based on Xcel's unwillingness/unresponsiveness to address the Town Board's concerns.

Adopted by the Town Board on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Town of Erin Prairie

By:   
John Van Dyk, Town Chairman

Attest:   
Krista Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

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