

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TITUS

At a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court for Titus County, Texas, held at the Titus County Court House on 12-13-2021, there were present:

Jeff Parchman-Commissioner Precinct 1
John Fitch-Commissioner Precinct 2
Dana Applewhite-Commissioner Precinct 3
Jimmy Parker-Commissioner Precinct 4
Brian Lee-Titus County Judge

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 16

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, Titus county is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Texas for which the Titus County Commissioners is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Titus County containing about 259,840 acres of land situated in Northeast Texas; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns 0% of the land within the County, and no federal land management agencies are responsible for managing over 0 acres of these federal lands; and

WHEREAS, approximately 251,340 acres (nearly 96.73% percent) of privately owned land in Titus County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements [See Exhibit A (Map of Titus County)]; and

WHEREAS, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department manages 5,000 acres owned by the US Army Corp of Engineers which is the Lakes and River systems; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, the well- being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of Titus County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including the poultry industry of Pilgrim's/JBS, large areas for seasonal hunting, fishing on area lake, as well as the outdoor activities enjoyed by local families. Current industries in Titus County are Pilgrim's Pride Prepared Foods Process Plants and Priefert Manufacturing. Both operations employ over 3,500 people; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Texas economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Titus County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Texas, and in particular rural counties such as [Name] County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners' Court of Titus County, Texas, as follows:

1. The Commissioners' Court opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Commissioners' Court further opposes the designation of lands in Titus County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Commissioners' Court supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.

4. The Commissioners' Court recognizes and supports the State of Texas's water rights system, including the doctrine of drinking water standards, rules and regulation for public water systems, and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Texas law.

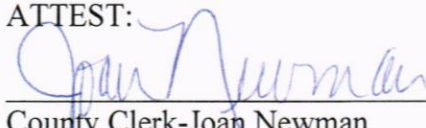
5. The Commissioners' Court supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities but opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

6. The Commissioners' Court also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Titus County, its businesses, and its citizens.

7. The Commissioners' Court shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and

DATED this 13 day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:



County Clerk-Joan Newman

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF TITUS COUNTY, STATE OF TEXAS

By: 

Chairman-Brian Lee



Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

Commissioner Precinct 1 - Jeff Parchman
Commissioner Precinct 2 - John Fitch
Commissioner Precinct 3 - Dana Applewhite
Commissioner Precinct 4 - Jimmy Parker

