

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 27

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF ANDERSON COUNTY WITHIN THE
FREEDOM'S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT**

WHEREAS, the Freedom Frontier National Heritage Area Act (FFNHA) encompasses 41 counties along the Kansas/Missouri border. The FFNHA includes Anderson County, Kansas;

WHEREAS, the 41 counties along the Kansas/Missouri border have a compelling and tragic story to tell about these two states engaged in their own "Border War" during the nation's conflict between north and south;

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2006, President George W. Bush signed enabling legislation establishing the FFNHA for the conservation, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the heritage area;

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is a nationally distinctive landscape shaped by natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources, recognized by U.S. Congress and tells a nationally important story through its geography, its man-made structures, and the traditions that have evolved within the landscape;

WHEREAS, Congress has designated area within the FFNHA to include privately held land located within the borders of Anderson County, Kansas. Local leaders, officials and citizens of Coffey County appreciate efforts and goal of a designated National Heritage Area program and its potential to sustain and preserve local cultural and historical heritage while at the same time encouraging economic development, but oppose blanket designations that put dissenting private landowners in the unreasonable position of having to "opt out" of federally mandated boundaries;

WHEREAS, there is additional local concern that the FFNHA will adversely influence local officials to pass zoning laws not otherwise needed in order to accommodate a National Area Heritage Area Management Plan developed by the National Park Service and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, thereby altering well-established processes for land use regulation;

WHEREAS, the FFNHA also involves the potential for interference in local affairs by special interest groups who claim to be stakeholders but who do not have the historical perspective, deeply felt stewardship and responsibility of owners who have developed and worked the land located within the borders of Anderson County over several generations;

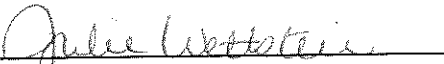
WHEREAS, local leaders, officials and citizens of Anderson County are concerned that the FFNHA local vision, mission and guiding principles have the potential chilling effect of depriving landowners of the ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Anderson County Commissioners hereby formally opposes inclusion of Anderson County, Kansas within the FFNHA designated National Heritage Area.

ADOPTED this 11th day of October 2021, by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS.

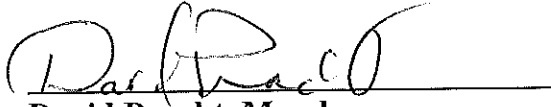
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

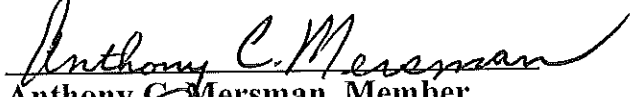
Attest:


Julie Wettstein, County Clerk




Les McGhee, Chairman


David Pracht, Member


Anthony C. Mersman, Member

Resolution No. 2021- 28

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE "HALF EARTH," "30 X 30," AND "AMERICA
THE BEAUTIFUL" PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED PRIVATE
OWNERSHIP OF LAND

WHEREAS,

1. For some years, on an international level, there have been environmentalist proposals similar to a leading one called "Half Earth."¹

2. Half Earth refers to permanently locking up half of the earth's land and water against any use by human beings by 2050.

3. The theory of Half Earth is that permanently locking up half of the earth is necessary as a last-minute desperate measure to avoid climate change catastrophe, to save millions of species from extinction, and thereby save ourselves. The Half- Earth Project says, "The extinction rate is 1,000 times higher than before the global spread of humanity. As human impact on the environment grows, associated species loss compromises the stability of our planet."²

4. For some years, on an international level, there have been intermediate proposals similar to a leading one called "30 x 30."

5. 30 x 30 refers to permanently locking up 30 percent of the earth's land and water by 2030 as an interim goal toward permanently locking up 50 percent.³

6. The theory of 30 x 30 is that permanently locking up the earth to the scale of 30 percent on the time frame of less than 10 years by 2030 is necessary to barely avoid the immediate environmental crisis.⁴

7. In 2019 the Center for American Progress published a report supporting 30 x 30 titled "How Much Nature Should America Keep." The overview provided with the press announcement of the report said, "A good answer to this question starts with a commitment to protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030."⁵ The Center's webpage announcing the publication of the report quotes ecologist Edward O. Wilson, author the book *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, as saying the Half Earth prescription is "the only way to save upward of 90 percent of the rest of life."⁶

8. Following publication of that report, measures were introduced in the United States Congress calling for 30 x 30. In the Senate, one of the co-sponsors was then-Senator Kamala Harris. In the House of Representatives, one of the co-sponsors was then- Representative Debra Haaland. President Joseph R. Biden selected Senator Harris as his running mate for Vice President and President of the Senate, and he

selected Representative Haaland as Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, a key department for 30 x 30.

9. On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008 titled "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" which, among other things, adopts 30 x 30.⁷

10. The Executive Order directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies to submit a report within 90 days of the order recommending steps that the United States should take to achieve the goal of "conserving" at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.⁸

11. The Executive Order is silent about what "conservation" means.

12. The Executive Order is silent about where the Administration plans to get the 30 percent of American land to lock up.

13. The report submitted in obedience to the Executive Order does not answer either of those questions, and Administration officials now say it is too difficult to define "conservation,"⁹ but they plan to do it, whatever it is.

14. . The Administration has not answered questions from state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, fishermen, and other stakeholders. For some examples,

- A. They have not provided a scientific basis for a claim that unless we permanently lock up 30 percent of America in 9 years, more than one million species will become extinct.
- B. They have not provided an explanation of why, if the land that would be lost to development by 2030 would be 11 million acres, we must dictate the permanent lockup of 681 million more acres beyond the 274 million acres already deemed permanently protected. The gap between the 11million acre loss and the 681million acre lockup is well beyond fuzzy math.
- C. They have not provided a scientific explanation of how locking up 30 percent of American's land in 9 years will cure the immediate climate crisis. In other words, they have not shown that locking up America will not all have been for nothing, environmentally speaking.
- D. They have not answered questions 15 Governors asked President Biden in their letter to him in April 2021.The letter noted that very little information is being shared with states.¹⁰
- E. In response to a letter dated March 16, 2021 from 62 members of the

U. S. House and Senate requesting that the White House provide a briefing to Congress, the White House staff on April 14, 2021 provided a ten-minute presentation and a round of questions, during which they said that what the President means by "conservation" of land in his Executive Order is too difficult to define.

15. The so-called "science" that has been offered to justify 30-percent lockup of America as an interim goal toward a 50-percent lockup is not standard science based on such procedures as hypothesis testing, empirical observation, and repeatable experimental results. It is "models" that foreordain the conclusions by presupposing the assumptions fed into them: garbage in, garbage out. Most of the citations to supposed "science" are to press releases and opinion papers by environmentalist groups. The few references to actual scientific papers do not prove the core claim of 30 x 30 that human use of land threatens millions of species or that locking up 30 percent of America in 9 years will cure the climate crisis.

16. The Administration has promised environmentalists that they will use "every tool in the toolbox" to lock up 30 percent of America's land including not only removing federal lands from human use, but new measures in conservation programs, new federal land acquisitions, and an array of other tools.

17. The Executive Order cites no constitutional, statutory, or other lawful authority for the President to dictate 30 x 30.

18. The Administration has provided no answers to questions about the lawfulness of the President's dictate.

19. A groundswell of grassroots local opposition to 30 x 30 has arisen beginning in the center of the country and spreading outward.

20. Already as early as April 8, 2021, the Nebraska and Kansas State Attorneys General co-signed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior putting the Administration on notice that they are prepared to defend their states' and landowners' property rights against 30 x 30.

21. Already as early as April 21, 2021 15 Governors had signed a joint letter to the President that Section 216 of the Executive order "infringes on the sovereignty of states and rights of the citizens."¹¹

22. U. S. Senators from the following states have announced their opposition to 30 x 30: Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Tennessee, Georgia, Idaho, Utah, and Alaska.

23. U. S. Representatives from the following states have announced their opposition to 30 x 30: Montana, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Arizona, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, and Alaska.

24. Following the widespread and growing opposition to 30 x 30 across the country, the Administration has rebranded and begun re-marketing it as the "America the Beautiful Initiative." This is an appeal for political support in urban areas from people who have no skin in the game. They own none of the land that the Presidential dictate would permanently lock up.

25. In the rebranding, America the Beautiful claims:

A. 30 x 30 is a local initiative.

B. Permanently locking up land or water is voluntary.

26. 30 x 30 is not a local initiative. It originated as an interim goal of the global environmentalist Half Earth proposal. The current administration unilaterally repealed a former provision that local governments could veto major federal land acquisitions in their jurisdictions. This repeal removed local government control of permanently locking up land and water.²⁰

35. Viewing 30 x 30 in the full context of the Administration's other policies, it becomes clear that just as the meaning of words like "conservation" is kept mushy, the meaning of "voluntary" when the Administration uses that word is not what the people of Anderson County mean by "voluntary." For example, the Administration's policy of eliminating stepped-up basis for tax purposes on the event of death would force farmers, ranchers, and others to sell parts or all of their land to pay hugely increased taxes. Selling the farm to be permanently locked up because of a tax gun-to-the-head is not voluntary. That is a land grab.

36. 30 x 30 is contrary to the rights, interests, history, heritage, way of life, children, and grandchildren of Anderson County's citizens and to the interests of Anderson County as a local government.

38. Another feature of the rebranding is that instead of submitting 30 x 30 to Congress in a single bill identified as such, the Administration will follow a different tactic of implementing "death by a thousand small cuts." It will endorse apparently scattered and separate bills, issue executive orders, issue secretarial orders, shift enforcement approaches on things like conservation contracts, and many other separately small tactics, like an army in a thousand uniforms marching under a thousand flags. This is done so that no piece is recognized as or called 30 x 30, and therefore individual pieces are not opposed based on the unpopularity of 30 x 30.

39. Regarding habitat and welfare of species, the better managed land

is privately owned land, and the land most poorly managed is under management by federal agencies and environmentalist elites. Private landowners have provided the best habitat while producing the necessary food, fiber, minerals, and Energy to support life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

40. 30 x 30 is an accusation that the landowners are unable or unwilling to care properly for the land, which we find to be simply not true.

Now, THEREFORE IT BE HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Anderson County, State of Kansas this 11th day of October, 2021, that:

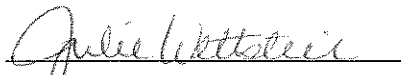
1. **Opposition to 30 x 30.** We oppose the 30 x 30 program, every other similar program by any name, all separate parts or pieces of such programs, and Executive Order 14008.

2. **Private Property Rights.** We support continued private ownership of land in Anderson County and the private use of land in support of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of Kansas.

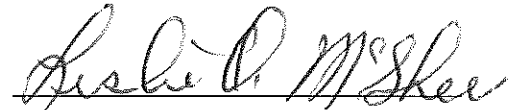
Effective Date. This resolution shall be immediately effective upon passage, approval, and adoption.

Attest:

Signed:



Julie Wettstein, County Clerk



Les McGhee, Chairman



Dave Pracht, Member



Anthony C. Merman, Member

¹See e.g., Edward O. Wilson, *Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life* (New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2016), ISBN 978-1-63149-082-8 paperback.

² "Scientists for a Half-Earth Future," Half-Earth Project, <https://www.half-earthproject.org/scientists/> (accessed June 4, 2021).

³"Thirty by Thirty--an interim goal toward protecting Half of *Nature*," *Words of the Wild*, Newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, Vol. XXII, No. 3, December 2019, <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/WOW-December-2019.pdf> (accessed June 3, 2021).

⁴"How Much Nature Should America Keep?," Center for American Progress, August 6, 2019, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2019/08/06/473242/much-nature-america-keep/> (accessed 6-3-2021).

⁵"How Much Nature Should America Keep?," <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2019/08/06/473242/much-nature-america-keep/> (accessed June 3, 2021).

⁶"How Much Nature Should America Keep?," Center for American Progress, August 6, 2019, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2019/08/06/473242/much-nature-america-keep/> (accessed 6-3-2021) (citing Edward O. Wilson, "The Global Solution to Extinction," *The New York Times*, March 12, 2016, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/the-global-solution-to-extinction.html>).

⁷ 66 Fed. Reg. 7,619 (Vol. 86, No. 19, Monday, February 1, 2021).

⁸ § 216(a).

⁹ White House staff response to letter dated March 16, 2021 by 62 members of the U. S. House and Senate asking for a briefing.

¹⁰"Fifteen State Governors Respond to President Biden's Aggressive 30 by 30 Plan," Protect the Harvest, provides full text and a PDF file of the letter, <https://protecttheharvest.com/news/open-letter-to-president-biden-about-30-by-30/> (accessed June 3, 2021).

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²⁰ Rescission of Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3388.