

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WRIGHT COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Date May 10, 2016  
Motion by Commissioner Daleiden

Resolution No. 16-29  
Seconded by Commissioner Borrell

RESOLUTION  
ADOPTING A ZONING ORDINANCE  
INSTITUTING AN EMERGENCY MORATORIUM ON SOLAR ENERGY FARMS  
(SEE ATTACHED)

	YES
HUSOM	<u>X</u>
SAWATZKE	<u>X</u>
DALEIDEN	<u>X</u>
POTTER	<u>X</u>
BORRELL	<u>X</u>

	NO
HUSOM	<u>          </u>
SAWATZKE	<u>          </u>
DALEIDEN	<u>          </u>
POTTER	<u>          </u>
BORRELL	<u>          </u>

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

ss.

County of Wright )

I, Lee Kelly, duly appointed and qualified County Coordinator of the County of Wright, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Wright County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Buffalo, Minnesota, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

  
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Lee Kelly, County Coordinator

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A ZONING ORDINANCE INSTITUTING AN EMERGENCY MORATORIUM ON SOLAR ENERGY FARMS.**

Whereas, the Wright County Zoning Ordinance contains standards for the issuance of a conditional use permit for Solar Energy Farms; and

Whereas, the Office of Planning and Zoning has been accepting a number of applications related to the creation of Solar Energy Farms and this has resulting in a number of comments being made by townships, cities, and members of the general public; and

Whereas, the Office of Planning and Zoning and the Wright County Planning Commission are under great development pressure with applications related to Solar Energy Farms; and

Whereas, the Wright County Board of Commissioners has been reviewing the Wright County Zoning Ordinance with respect to Solar Energy Farms and changes may be necessary to protect public health, safety, and general welfare; and

Whereas, pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 394.34, the Wright County Board of Commissioners adopted a temporary interim zoning ordinance instituting a moratorium on the processing of any future applications to allow time to classify and regulate uses and related matters and to determine whether a proposed ordinance amendments should be adopted and implemented to protect the public health, safety and general welfare; and

Whereas, notice was published and a public hearings was conducted on a long term moratorium not to exceed six months; and

Whereas, the Wright County Board of Commissioners finds:

1. An emergency zoning ordinance instituting a moratorium prohibiting further Solar Energy Farms is necessary in order to hold discussions and hearings to determine whether a longer term moratorium zoning ordinance shall be adopted and implemented, to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Wright County.
2. An emergency exists because based on the recent development pressure as well the comments received from the community, the townships, and the cities, the Wright County Zoning Ordinance does not afford the protection needed to ensure that the residents of Wright County are not adversely affected.
3. It is in the interests of public health, safety, and the general welfare to impose a moratorium for a period not to exceed six months.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Wright County Board of Commissioners, that this resolution adopting an emergency zoning ordinance instituting a six month moratorium on approval and acceptance of applications for Solar Energy Farms shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication and shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed six months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wright County Office of Planning and Zoning is directed to administratively deny any applications during the period in which this interim ordinance is in effect; and

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wright County Office of Planning and Zoning shall schedule, publish, and notice public hearings as necessary for the purpose of studying and drafting proposed amendments and changes to the Wright County Solar Ordinance and that a final hearing on any proposed changes or amendments shall be held within six months.