

PLATTE COUNTY RESOLUTION #2021-14

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14008, DATED JANUARY 27, 2021

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

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 (“EO 14008”), Section 208, issues an immediate pause in all new oil and gas leases on public lands; and

WHEREAS, EO 14008, Section 209, directs termination of all federal subsidies to fossil fuels by budget request processing for Fiscal Year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of EO 14008 on fossil fuels will have an immediate and direct impact on the economy, welfare and wellbeing of the State of Wyoming and Platte County; and

WHEREAS, the intent and purpose of EO 14008 appears to promote the use of alternative resources and fuel by 2030 and the immediate termination of the oil and gas industry, either with this pause on new leases on public lands or through the termination of the Keystone Pipeline, has effectively accelerated the costs of inflation and product base absent a reasonable, established and available alternative source; and

WHEREAS, EO 14008, Section 214, asserts a policy of the Biden Administration to create a workforce to conserve federal public lands and waters with protection of America’s natural treasures, increase reforestation, improve access to recreation, and increase resilience to wildfires and storms; and

WHEREAS, EO 14008, Section 214, further recognizes the vital role of farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners provide in “combating” the “climate crisis” by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation and sourcing sustainable bio products and fuels.; and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of EO 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 land 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, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, noxious weeds, 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 Platte County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, the people of Platte County place a high priority on limited governmental interference and the preservation of private property rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF PLATTE COUNTY that the Board of Platte County Commissioners opposes Presidential Executive Order No. 14008 for the following reasons:

1. The Board supports the fossil fuel industry and thereby opposes the immediate pause in any oil and gas leases;
2. The Board 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.
3. The Board opposes acquisitions of private land through regulatory compulsion and instead believes land should be purchased from willing landowners for full and fair market value.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Wyoming water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within Platte County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under State law.
5. The Board expresses its opposition to imposition, in any way, of EO 14008, that would result in road closure, road decommissioning, a moratorium on road construction or other limitation to public access to federal public lands;
6. The Board intends and will ensure that a copy of this Resolution is issued to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce.

Given our hand and seal this 19th day of October 2021.

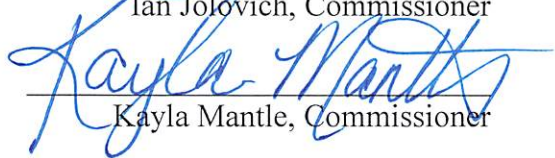
**PLATTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



Steve Shockley, Chairman



Ian Jolovich, Commissioner



Kayla Mantle, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Malcolm Ervin, County Clerk

