

## **RESOLUTION**

### **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S 30X30 LAND PRESERVATION GOAL**

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

**WHEREAS, the County of Llano contains about 584,475 total acres of land situation in Central Texas; and**

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

**WHEREAS, many of Llano County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including livestock grazing, agricultural and horticultural activities, crop production, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and**

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

**WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tracking the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (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 "30x30 program"; and**

**WHEREAS, under the "30x30 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, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; 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 lands 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 Llano County whose citizens depend upon the private ownership of land for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, conversion of land from private ownership to federal ownership typically results in removal of said land from the tax rolls of the applicable taxing entity, thereby diminishing the pool of total tax revenue available, and causing a potential for the burden of increased taxation for the remaining owners of privately held land; 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 Llano County Commissioners Court of Llano County, as follows:

1. The Llano County Commissioners Court opposes the “30x30 program”, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands in their 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 Llano County Commissioners Court further opposes the designation of lands in Llano County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, and open space, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Llano County 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 Llano County Commissioners Court recognizes and support the State of Texas’s 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 the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Texas Law.

5. The Llano County Commissioners Court opposes the use of global climate change as a justification to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the "30x30 program's" objectives.
6. The Llano County Commissioners Court also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the "30x30 program's" objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of 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 Llano County, its businesses, and its citizens.
7. The Llano County Commissioners Court shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State Agencies.

ADOPTED AND DATED this 14 day of March, 2022.

  
Ron Cunningham, Llano County Judge

  
Peter Jones, Commissioner, Pct. 1

  
Linda Raschke, Commissioner, Pct. 2

  
Mike Sandoval, Commissioner, Pct. 3

  
Jerry Don Moss, Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest:   
Marci Hadeler, County Clerk