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Rusk County passes resolution calling for eminent domain reform

Ladysmith, WI—Today, the Rusk County Board became the 6th county to pass a resolution calling on the state to reform Wisconsin's eminent domain law and prohibit the use of eminent domain for private gain for oil pipelines. The resolution that passed unanimously states:

“to express their desire to the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to reform eminent domain laws to protect the property rights of Wisconsin citizens and prohibit the state from granting the power of eminent domain to for-profit oil pipeline companies.”

Twenty community members attended in support and seven people spoke in favor of the resolution,

“We don't feel that any landowner should have to fight a multi-billion dollar business to save the value of the home they have worked for their entire lives to achieve,” stated **Lorene Reisner, a landowner along the Enbridge pipeline**. Lorene and Jule Reisner's story is featured in [the recent video series](#) with those living along the line.

Five other counties (Wood, Walworth, Rock, Jefferson, and Clark) have passed similar resolutions calling for eminent domain reform.

“As landowners, we often feel alone sitting across the table from Enbridge,” stated **Keith Merkel, member of the landowner group, 80 Feet is Enough!** “It's great to feel like we now have the support of six county boards when asking our legislators and other leaders to protect us from eminent domain abuse,” he concluded.

“The emotions of possibly losing your home are so great, many can't even speak about it,” stated **Jule Reisner**. “Having the county demonstrate support for us makes it a little easier,” he finished.

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About Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance:

Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance is a coalition of community members, leaders, and organizations concerned about the safety, land, and environmental threats posed by proposals to expand tar sands throughout Wisconsin, especially along Enbridge's Line 61 corridor. WiSE has affiliates in Sawyer, Rusk, Clark, Taylor, Marathon, Columbia, and Rock Counties and partners and members in every county along the line.

About 80 Feet is Enough!:

Started in a small neighborhood in late 2015 after hearing about Enbridge's expansion plans, members of 80 Feet Is Enough! are diverse in backgrounds and perspectives and include Republicans and Democrats, young and retired, environmentalists and non-environmentalists. Members are united in the view that Wisconsin property owners have carried their fair share of the oil economy burden, all to the financial benefit of Enbridge. Members share the goal of stopping the next pipeline expansion using civil discourse and American principles of land ownership.