

Freeborn County Board of Commissioners Resolution 25-139
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
("BESS") NEAR GLENVILLE, MN AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED
DOCKET NOS. ESS 24-294 and TL 24-295

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") is vested with the authority and responsibility to act for the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors of Freeborn County; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners acknowledge Minnesota's goals related to energy production and the importance of grid reliability; and

WHEREAS, a specific proposal has been made for the construction and operation of a battery energy storage system ("BESS") project **at a location in close proximity** to the community of Glenville, its residents, the Shell Rock River, and designated wildlife management areas; and

WHEREAS, based on review of the information available regarding **this specific BESS project proposal**, the Commissioners have identified concerns regarding potential adverse impacts on the local community, residents, wildlife, and environment adjacent to the proposed Glenville site; and

WHEREAS, potential health and safety risks associated with BESS technology, including the potential for emission of toxins, thermal events, fire, explosions, and "thermal runaway," raise significant concerns regarding **this proposed project**, particularly given its proposed scale and specific location near residences and sensitive environmental resources. Based on available information, such events, if initiated at **this location**, could pose substantial risks and challenges for emergency response, potentially impacting human safety, wildlife, property, and the environment adjacent to Glenville and the Shell Rock River; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated continuous noise emissions from the operation of **this proposed BESS project**, considering its proximity to existing residences and natural areas, raise concerns regarding potential nuisance and impacts on the welfare of nearby residents and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the proximity of the proposed project site to the Shell Rock River, a DNR designated State Water Trail, necessitates careful consideration of potential impacts on water quality and recreational use, raising concerns based on the current proposal; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site location is within an area documented as subject to severe weather events, including tornadoes, high winds, and torrential rains, posing potential physical risks to **this specific BESS facility as proposed** and potentially increasing the risk of hazardous material runoff from this site into the Shell Rock River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, considering the specific characteristics, scale, and operational plan outlined in **this proposed BESS project**, combined with its sensitive location near the Glenville community, residences, the Shell Rock River, and wildlife areas, the Commissioners find, based on the record before them, that the identified potential risks to public health, safety, welfare, property, and the environment must be taken into consideration by the MPUC;

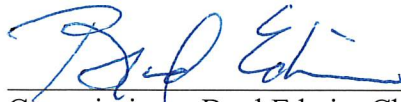
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners,

as follows:

1. The above recitations, specific to the proposed Glenville BESS project and its proposed location, are hereby adopted as the findings and concerns of the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners based upon the information and record reviewed.
2. That the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners finds that the **proposed Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") project near Glenville, MN, as currently proposed and reviewed**, is inconsistent with the County's goals and responsibilities regarding the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and the promotion of responsible and compatible land use in this specific area.
3. That, based upon the concerns specific to this proposal, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby **opposes the approval and development of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") near Glenville, MN, as currently proposed**.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners at their session on the 15th day of April 2025, and as it appears on the Minutes of their record of proceedings.

BY THE BOARD



Commissioner Brad Edwin, Chair

Attest: 
County Administrator Melanie Aeschliman