

PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
OF THE MARQUETTE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION ACTION TO SUE THE EPA

WHEREAS, the Marquette Board of County Road Commissioners has the authority to lay out new roads within the count, to sue, and to engage professional services as it considers necessary to implement the county road law and promote safety, efficiency and economy in the operation of the county road system, and,

WHEREAS, the Powell Township is a local unit of government that is within the jurisdiction of the Marquette County Road Commission, and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Board of County Road Commissioners began planning to construct County Road 595 and applied to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for a wetlands dredge and fill permit for this purpose, and,

WHEREAS, the Powell Township Board was fully supportive of the Board of County Road Commissioners efforts to site County Road 595 at that time, and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lodged objections to the permit, such that MDEQ was unable to issue that permit, and,

WHEREAS, the Powell Township Board believes that the EPA's action was arbitrary, capricious and not based on the law or the facts presented to the Agency, and

WHEREAS, the Powell Township Board continues to believe that construction of County Road 595 is critical in that it provides a primary county north-south road that (1) connects and improves emergency, commercial, industrial and recreational access to a somewhat isolated but key industrial, commercial and recreational area in northwest Marquette County to US-41 and (2) is a far safer haul route and will reduce truck travel from this area through Marquette County population centers, and

WHEREAS, the Powell Township Board believes that not only will the construction of County Road 595 improve public safety and protect our environment, but that it will create needed jobs and provide for real economic growth for the region, including to not only natural resource based industry but, also to tourism and recreation.

WHEREAS, it is our belief that because of these significant local benefits the project continues to have broad and overwhelming support from the general public, business and labor organizations, conservationists, traffic safety advocates and bi-partisan local, state and federal legislators, and

WHEREAS, the Marquette Board of County Road Commissioners has proposed to build County Road 595 in an environmentally responsible manner if indeed the road is constructed, and

WHEREAS, in order to proceed with the planned construction of County Road 595, the Road Commission must appeal the USEPA's objections to the wetlands and related permits in the United States District Court, and,

WHEREAS, the Marquette Board of County Road Commissioners has affirmed by a Resolution that it will only proceed with the appeal if no public funds are expended on the appeal, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that the Powell Township hereby expresses its support for the Marquette Board of County Road Commissioners, and for its decision to appeal USEPA's arbitrary and unreasonable objections to the construction of County Road 595.

NOW, THEREFORE< BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be immediately transmitted to the Marquette Board of County Road Commissioners, the Marquette County Commission, our elected federal and state legislators, and the Governor of the State of Michigan.

This Resolution was adopted on the 17th day of February, 2015.

By: Gamble second by Hudson

Darlene Turner
Chairperson

By: Linda H. Gamble
Clerk

Gamble - Aye
Hudson - Aye
Stanley - Aye
Erickson - Aye
Turner - Aye