Bethel TOWNSHIP
MIAMI COUNTY - OHIO

RESOLUTION #26-03-034

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON SOLAR AND WIND FARMS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF BETHEL TOWNSHIP, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO

The Bethel Township Board of Trustees, Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio met in regular session on the 10th day of March, 2026 with the following Trustees being present: Kama Dick, Julie Reese, and Josh Wilkerson.

Trustee DICK **moved for the adoption** of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2026, the Bethel Township Board of Trustees, Miami County, Ohio discussed the possibility of wind and solar farms and other commercial renewable energy projects coming to the Township where concerns were expressed that the operation of local solar farms may adversely impact our farm land and quality of life; **AND**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code the Bethel Township Section 519.02, a board of township trustees may regulate location, size and use of buildings and lands in unincorporated territory; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Bethel Township Board of Trustees finds it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Bethel Township to adopt a twelve (12) month moratorium on the establishment, construction, conversion of other structures for commercial renewable energy operations, such as wind and solar farms, or the commencement of construction of commercial renewable energy operations within Bethel Township while it undertakes a review and/or study of the regulations of the Township's Zoning Resolution to assure that such facilities are properly zoned, safe for the community, properly constructed or rehabilitated to mitigate the potential harmful impact such operations can have on residential and commercial areas; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Bethel Township Board of Trustees wishes to assess the impact of renewable energy operations, such as wind and solar farms, on the public health and safety of surrounding neighborhoods and consider and study the benefits that renewable energy projects may bring to the Township; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Bethel Township Board of Trustees will be able to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health, safety, welfare, peace, and comfort of the citizens of Bethel Township more effectively if a moratorium is in place. **THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Township Trustees of Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio that:

SECTION 1. Renewable Energy Operations are defined for this moratorium as commercial projects using renewable natural resources to produce energy. This moratorium will include, but not be limited to, operations of solar energy, wind power, hydropower, and bioenergy.

SECTION 2. The Bethel Township Board of Trustees hereby imposes a twelve (12) month moratorium on the consideration, approval or authorization of any permits, permitted uses, conditional uses, special uses, accessory uses, or variances that would enable the granting of any permits, allow establishment, construction, conversion of other structures into Renewable Energy Operations, or commencement of construction of Renewable Energy Operations within the unincorporated territory of the Township. Said moratorium extends to the submission, consideration or approval of all applications for permits, general development plans, final development plans, special or accessory use permits, occupancy permits, or building permits.

SECTION 3. This moratorium does not apply to repair or replacement of existing commercial renewable energy operations within the unincorporated territory of Bethel Township. This moratorium does not apply to residential renewable energy projects within the unincorporated territory of Bethel Township.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall remain effective for twelve (12) months following the date upon with it became effective unless extended by a majority vote of the Bethel Township Board of Trustees, if the Board finds such continuance is required to allow sufficient time to complete its study and recommend what action, if any, the Township should take to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare through the provision of adequate planning, zoning, land use, or other regulatory controls that are specifically applicable to activities covered under this resolution. The Board of Trustees may also lift the moratorium prior to its expiration by a majority vote of its members.

SECTION 5. If any section, phrase, sentence, or portion of this resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

SECTION 6. This Board hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Trustee WILKERSON **seconded** the motion and the Board voted as follows upon roll call:

Vote:

Trustee Kama Dick	YES	Kama Dick
Trustee Julie Reese	YES	Julie Reese
Trustee Josh Wilkerson	YES	Joshua Wilkerson

Attest: Rhonda Ross

Rhonda Ross, Fiscal Officer
Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio