

RESOLUTION # 2021-15

A resolution opposing a National Heritage Area in Decatur County.

Whereas, Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area Partnership is pursuing a National Heritage Area designation encompassing 49 counties, (26 in Kansas, 23 in Nebraska, equaling 35,792 square miles) with a total population of 650,000;

Whereas, Congress has designated National Heritage Areas which encompass vast amounts of privately held land in order to highlight areas of specific interest. Citizens of this county appreciate efforts to encourage economic development, but oppose blanket designations that put dissenting private landowners in the unreasonable position of having to "opt out" of federally mandated boundaries;

Whereas, the establishment of a 49-county National Heritage Area would adversely influence local officials to pass zoning laws not otherwise needed in order to accommodate a National Heritage Area Management Plan developed by the National Park Service and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, thereby altering well-established processes for land use regulation;

Whereas, A National Heritage Area designation invites interference in local affairs by special interest groups who claim to be stakeholders, such as the National Park Service, animal rights activists and environmental groups who do not have the historical perspective or deeply felt stewardship responsibility of owners who have worked the land over several generations.

Whereas, the establishment a National Heritage Area in order to leverage federal and local matching funds based upon private property, without owner knowledge or consent, illustrates a violation of private property rights; The United States can no longer afford to borrow money to engage in endless expansion of dependency and regulation by the federal government with sunset provisions for NHAs that were never enforced, resulting in chronic dependency rather than free market activity.

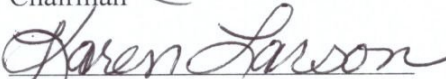
Whereas, A fundamental interdependence exists between individual liberty and the ability to own property, the citizens of this county are very concerned that a National Heritage Area designation would deprive landowners of their ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Commissioners of Decatur County, Kansas_ opposes the National Heritage Area designation of the 49-county region aforementioned, and likewise opposes the inclusion of this county within the 49-county designation map and does not wish to confer upon an unelected regional management entity the ability to establish or influence land use policy within the boundaries of this county.

Passed by the Board of Commissioners of Decatur County, Kansas on this 6 day of April, 2021.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECATUR COUNTY, KANSAS


Chairman


Member


Member

Attest:


County Clerk