

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-G

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEOSHO COUNTY WITHIN THE FREEDOM'S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

WHEREAS, the Freedom Frontier National Heritage Area Act (FFNHA) encompasses 41 counties along the Kansas/Missouri border. The FFNHA includes Neosho County, Kansas;

WHEREAS, the 41 counties along the Kansas/Missouri border have a compelling and tragic story to tell about these two states engaged in their own "Border War" during the nation's conflict between north and south;

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2006, President George W. Bush signed enabling legislation establishing the FFNHA for the conservation, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the heritage area;

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is nationally distinctive landscape shaped by natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources, recognized by U.S. Congress and tells a nationally important story through its geography, its man-made structures, and the traditions that have evolved within the landscape;

WHEREAS, Congress has designated area within the FFNHA to include privately held land located within the borders of Neosho County, Kansas. Local leaders, officials and citizens of Neosho County appreciate the efforts and goal of a designated National Heritage Area program and its potential to sustain and preserve local cultural and historical heritage while at the same time encouraging 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, there is additional local concern that the FFNHA will adversely influence local officials to pass zoning laws not otherwise needed in order to accommodate a National Area 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, the FFNHA also involves the potential for interface in local affairs by special interest groups who claim to be stakeholders but who do not have the historical perspective, deeply felt stewardship and responsibility of owners who have developed and worked the land located within the borders of Neosho County over several generations;

WHEREAS, local leaders, officials and citizens of Neosho County are concerned that the FFNHA local vision, mission and guiding principles have the potential chilling effect of depriving landowners of the ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Neosho County Commissioners hereby formally opposes inclusion of Neosho County, Kansas within the FFNHA designated National Heritage Area.

Adopted this 19th day of May, 2022, by the Board of County Commissioners
of Neosho County, Kansas

Board of County Commissioners
Of Neosho County, Kansas

Attest:

Heather Elsworth

Heather Elsworth, County Clerk

Gail Klaassen

Gail Klaassen, Chairman

Paul Westhoff

Paul Westhoff, Commissioner

Nicholas Galemore

Nicholas Galemore, Commissioner

