

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD IN SUPPORT
OF STATE ACTION TO PROTECT THE MAHOMET AQUIFER**

WHEREAS, various businesses have expressed interest in siting carbon dioxide sequestration wells or associated pipelines in McLean County and have initiated the process of applying for the various permits and approvals required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the Illinois Commerce Commission, and the McLean County Board; and,

WHEREAS, McLean County is one of 15 Illinois counties located over the Mahomet Aquifer, which serves as the primary source of drinking water for more than 500,000 people; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2015, the U.S. EPA designated the Mahomet Aquifer as a Sole Source Aquifer, indicating that: 1) the aquifer supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water for its service area, and 2) there are no reasonably available drinking water sources should the aquifer become contaminated; and,

WHEREAS, the McLean County Board has amended its Zoning Ordinance to require a special use permit and impose setback requirements for carbon dioxide injection wells, but lacks the authority to otherwise regulate carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects for the protection of the Mahomet Aquifer; and,

WHEREAS, Public Act 102-381, enacted on August 13, 2021, established the Mahomet Aquifer Council, authorizing it to initiate a process of review and evaluation, and subsequently issue recommendations regarding State laws, regulations, and procedures that relate to: 1) the Mahomet Aquifer, 2) its quality, 3) potential contamination threats thereto, and, 4) make recommendations relating to actions that might be taken to ensure the long-term protection of the Mahomet Aquifer; and,

WHEREAS, of the 25 seats created on the Mahomet Aquifer Council, 12 currently remain vacant, and it has yet to make any public recommendations in accordance with its statutory purpose; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Safety and Aid for the Environment in Carbon Capture and Sequestration Act was signed into law on July 18, 2024, establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework for the development of carbon capture and sequestration projects, and imposing a moratorium on the approval of new carbon pipelines through July of 2026 or until new safety rules are established by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the McLean County Board, now in regular session, to support statewide legislation to prohibit the siting of carbon dioxide pipelines and sequestration activities over or through the Mahomet Aquifer and its recharge zones; and,

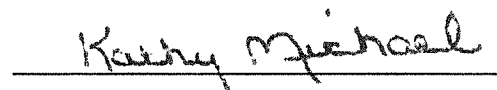
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor and Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are encouraged to make their respective appointments to the Mahomet Aquifer Council, as provided for under Section 5-5 of the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act, to ensure the long-term protection of the Mahomet Aquifer.

Adopted by the County Board of McLean County, Illinois, this 17th day of October, 2024.

APPROVED:


Catherine Metsker, Chairman
McLean County Board

ATTEST:


Kathy Michael, County Clerk
McLean County, Illinois