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**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OPPOSES TWO
MAJOR ENERGY TRANSMISSION PROJECTS**

Friday December 16, 2011 by Maureen McCollum

(LA CROSSE) The La Crosse County Board is the first to formally oppose two major energy transmission projects that could come through Wisconsin.

La Crosse County Board members passed a resolution that opposes the CapX2020 project and American Transmission Company's Badger-Coulee Line. The resolution also requests more information on the projects.

CapX2020 is a large energy transmission project beginning in North Dakota and is currently under construction in Minnesota. It needs approval from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to build massive power lines into the La Crosse area. ATC is proposing the construction of high voltage lines from La Crosse to northern Dane County.

Citizen Energy Task Force member Joe Morse says he's glad opposition voices were heard, "This will encourage other communities, we hope, to consider approving these resolutions. And we would like the state officials to consider coming behind the citizens now."

Some board members say they oppose the power lines because it could decrease property values, it does not promote regional energy generation, and there are unclear health effects from electromagnetic fields.

Mike Herro is CapX's community service manager for the La Crosse area. He says he's disappointed in the board's decision and has some issues with the statements in the resolution, "One of them is the reliability and the need for the line. This area hasn't had a new major transmission line in probably 30 years and there still is growth."

The Holmen School Board and the towns of Farmington and Holland recently passed resolutions opposing the CapX project.