

## Data Centers

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**From** Richard Peterson [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 1:29 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

We oppose the construction of any data centers, anywhere, in Howell Twp or Livingston County.

Thank you,

Richard and Tracey Peterson

339 Cimarron Dr.

Howell 48855

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**data center...**

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**From** dave [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 1:41 AM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Please know that we, along with neighbors do not desire a data center in Livingston county. Sincerely,  
Dave and Tammy Sizemore

## Rezoning/Data Center

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From Michele Schafer [REDACTED]

Date Sun 9/21/2025 2:19 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

As a lifelong resident of Howell and homeowner in Howell Township, I am writing to express my family's strong opposition to the proposed data center. My relatives have farmed land in Howell for over 100 years and this is a gross mismanagement of our town's land, resources and agricultural community. This will ruin the landscape of our town, chase residents away and deter others from moving here. Additionally, it will take away valuable resources from lifelong residents. Your job is to represent the best interests of the residents and to protect the agricultural atmosphere of Howell township - allowing the data center does not do that!

Sincerely,  
Michele Schafer  
Howell Township Resident,  
Educator and lifelong resident of Howell.

Sent from my iPhone

## Rezoning Request

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**From** Terry Buhler [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 3:41 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I have been a homeowner in Handy Township for over 33 years. I have heard news about a Rezoning Request

For a large parcels of land of land around my home area on Hogback Rd. Please DO NOT consider this Rezoning request. We did not move from the city to be surrounded by a possible Water Data Center! They use millions of gallons of water per day. They require major upgrades to the electrical grid, who pays? The noise & traffic 24/7 humming, truck traffic, & generator noise.  
PLEASE DO NOT consider this Rezoning request

Sincerely a concerned home owner

Terry Buhler

## Data Center

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 3:53 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

This email serves as our official non approval of this proposed Data Center.  
We do not want or need this type of business here.

We live in Howell township.

Alan& Linda Klais  
2521 Bowen Rd.  
Howell, MI

## Data Center Opposition

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**From** Sharron Gardner [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 4:45 PM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Sir,

Just want to voice my opinion and let you know that as a Howell resident I don't approve of the area between Howell & Fowlerville being rezoned for Research & Technology use. I'm hopeful you will consider the needs/wants of the residents in this area. Its bad enough we get woken @7am by the sounds coming from Padnos.

Thank you,  
The Gardner Family

## No to rezoning for data center

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**From** Andrew Dombrowski [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 5:00 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I have lived in Fowlerville for 27+ years and currently live less than 3 miles away from this proposed data center. I am in complete opposition of this data center. When doing my own research, these major corporations have lied to communities throughout the country promising them the world with more money to schools, townships, and the whole county. Then, after they get what they want and build these facilities the promises and guarantees go away. Residents are paying higher electricity rates and water bills to support these data center's. Do we really know how much water we actually have to support this outrageous daily water usage from this company and what happens to the water after they use it?

This proposal will drain our water supply, MHOG says they can handle it for now, but this is only PHASE 1 according to the developer. How many more phases? Will they try to steal the village of Fowlerville's water when they try to begin PHASE 2 or PHASE 3? This is a slippery slope that does not help this community. Once you open the door, these data centers will be all over this community. Water and energy are not the only issues either: air pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, and most importantly our quality of life.

Please help protect this community and keep the zoning we have now. No to any data centers!

Andrew Dombrowski  
Village of Fowlerville resident

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**FW: Data center**

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**From** Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>

**Date** Mon 9/22/2025 7:30 AM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Carol Makushik  
Deputy Assessor  
Office Hours - Monday - Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
CLOSED - FRIDAY and all Federal Holidays  
(517) 546-2817 Ext.102  
(517) 546-1483 - fax  
[office@howelltownshipmi.org](mailto:office@howelltownshipmi.org)



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**From:** lisa kozakiewicz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2025 5:44 PM  
**To:** Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>  
**Subject:** Data center

Example email: You can use this template email and tailor it to reflect your specific concerns and personal opinions and experience, if you'd like.

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning and construction of Michigan's largest data center in Howell.

This project poses serious concerns for our community. It would place an enormous burden on our natural resources, consuming excessive amounts of electricity and water.

Additionally, the environmental pollution and noise associated with such a facility would degrade our air quality and disrupt the peaceful, rural character that defines Howell.

Beyond the environmental costs, this development could lead to higher expenses for residents and strain local infrastructure. Howell's beauty and small-town charm are irreplaceable — we should be preserving, not jeopardizing, what makes this place special.

I urge you to vote against this rezoning proposal.

I was raised in Howell and now reside in Cohoctah township. I do NOT want this in my backyard.



Sincerely,  
Lisa Kozakiewicz

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

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**Reasoning/Data Center**

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**From** JERROLD DRESSLER [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 6:05 PM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

First and foremost I would like to know who approved the home being built to the north behind my property on 1494 W Barron Rd. They are berming the property which is going cause addition runoff and flooding to the home to the south, this is already an issue that has only gotten worse since the home was built on the southwest corner of W Barron and Byron several years ago when a wetland was illegally filled. This new construction will funnel water towards Barron Rd across privately owned properties.

I am also questioning the proposed data center, I didn't move here to be in the middle of a commercial area that doesn't have the infrastructure to support it. As a retired person on a fixed income you are already pricing me out of living in a home I have worked for years to own.

There is very little oversight in this township that doesn't have a reputation for sound decisions!

Sincerely  
Jerrold Dressler

## Re-zoning VanGilders property

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**From** Stephen Kuch [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 6:29 PM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I may not live in Howell township but I do live on Owosso road across from your township. Your selfish decisions affect more people than just your residents. I am personally contacting as many people I can to stop the re-zoning of that property. If you're someone that cares about the community then you will find a way to either dismiss this procedure. Other options could be to just zone a smaller group of property on the south side limiting the acreage use.

Stephen Kuch  
5795 Owosso  
Fowlerville mi. Handy township

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

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## Objection to rezoning for data center

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**From** Patrick Kosin <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 6:38 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I would like it to be understood that I, as a home and property owner in Howell township strongly disagree with plans to rezone current farm land to be rezoned for technological and industrial use. This project will almost undoubtable affect our community in so many negative ways. Including to but not limited to increased cost of utilities, increased traffic, that will further erode our infrastructure, and pollution. This is hearty land used to grow crops, and rezoning for industrial use will allow a large company to molest our community. Do not approve this rezoning. This is a nonsensical decision that will hurt the people, your constituents in this community.

-Patrick Kosin

**FW: DATA CENTER**

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**From** Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>

**Date** Mon 9/22/2025 7:30 AM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Carol Makushik  
Deputy Assessor  
Office Hours - Monday - Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
CLOSED - FRIDAY and **all** Federal Holidays  
(517) 546-2817 Ext.102  
(517) 546-1483 - fax  
[office@howelltownshipmi.org](mailto:office@howelltownshipmi.org)



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**From:** Tyler Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2025 7:06 PM  
**To:** Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>  
**Subject:** DATA CENTER

We don't want a data center in Howell!! Listen to what all the people around us want. It will do the city no real good.

Thanks

**NO Data Center(Howell township resident)**

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**From** Hunter Hirzel [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 8:18 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning and construction of Michigan's largest data center in Howell.

This project poses serious concerns for our community. It would place an enormous burden on our natural resources, consuming excessive amounts of electricity and water.

Additionally, the environmental pollution and noise associated with such a facility would degrade our air quality and disrupt the peaceful, rural character that defines Howell.

Beyond the environmental costs, this development could lead to higher expenses for residents and strain local infrastructure. Howell's beauty and small-town charm are irreplaceable — we should be preserving, not jeopardizing, what makes this place special.

I urge you to vote against this rezoning proposal.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Hirzel  
Howell Township resident

**NO DATA CENTER**

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**From** Britt Lind [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 8:24 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I am writing to urge you to vote against allowing data centers to be built in Howell. Our farmland and open spaces are the heart of this community, and once they are gone, we cannot get them back.

Data centers would bring noise, increased energy and water use, and change the rural character that makes this town special. Our farmland is not just empty space it supports local agriculture, wildlife, and the peaceful way of life that generations have built here.

We need to prioritize protecting our land, our environment, and our community over outside development. Please stand with the residents who want to keep Howell and Fowlerville the way it is... a place where farmland and open spaces are valued and preserved.

Thank you for listening to the voices of your community.

-Britt Lind

Lived here for 34 years and moved back recently because of the land!!!

## Data Center

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**From** Jake Henry [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 8:27 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning and construction of Michigan's largest data center in Howell.

This project poses serious concerns for our community. It would place an enormous burden on our natural resources, consuming excessive amounts of electricity and water.

Additionally, the environmental pollution and noise associated with such a facility would degrade our air quality and disrupt the peaceful, rural character that defines Howell.

Beyond the environmental costs, this development could lead to higher expenses for residents and strain local infrastructure. Howell's beauty and small-town charm are irreplaceable — we should be preserving, not jeopardizing, what makes this place special.

I urge you to vote against this rezoning proposal. Keep small town USA alive!

Sincerely,  
Jake Henry



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## Opposition to Amending the Zoning Ordinance and Map

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From Avery B [REDACTED]  
Date Sun 9/21/2025 9:05 PM  
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Members of the Howell Township Board and Planning Commission,

My name is Avery Bidwell, and I am a lifelong resident of Howell. Although I live in Genoa Township rather than Howell Township, the surrounding community has always been my home. I grew up attending Hutchings Elementary, Parker Middle, and Howell High School. The passion for agriculture in our town inspired me to pursue an education at Michigan State University where I received a two-year certificate in Agricultural Industries and a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture with a concentration in Horticultural Science. As someone with deep roots in this community and a career dedicated to agriculture and horticulture, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of approximately 1,300 acres from Agriculture Preservation to Research and Technology for the development of a data processing facility.

The overall purpose of this letter is to represent the voices of myself and my community members who value our farmland, rural character, and environmental protection over industrial development. I am also writing to ensure the township is intending on following its own Master Plan, to preserve farmland and rural identity in Howell, to protect environmental and public health, to demand transparency about the economic tradeoffs of this project, and finally to urge the township to deny this rezoning request. I would also like to call upon the township to provide a realistic evaluation of the costs versus the benefits of this project including number of permanent jobs, tax revenue, and landowner profit against the permanent loss of arable farmland, strain on existing water and electricity infrastructure, surrounding property value impacts, and environmental risks.

I found many inconsistencies between the developer's plans for this project and Howell Township's current Master Land Use Plan. The developer cites language about focusing development around the I-96 and Grand River area in Article 1, point 1 of their memorandum, "While the majority of the Property is designated as Agricultural Preservation, the Master Plan also makes clear that '[t]he [Master Plan's] Future Land Use Strategy recognizes and encourages...focusing higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development around M-59, Grand River, the airport, and I-96.'" Meanwhile, the Carlisle Wortman Associates Review says, "The Master Plan states the following on Agricultural Preservation: These areas are intended to remain rural. These areas are intended to maintain the existing agricultural lands in the Township. Housing in these areas should be on large lots to keep density low. The area planned for Agricultural Preservation includes the majority of the Township. In addition to preserving large swaths of active farmland that helps to support the agricultural industry in the community, these areas also help to maintain the existing character that many Township residents identify as what they

feel is most important about the community.” To override this designation with an industrial data center would directly contradict the township’s adopted land use vision.

Another inconsistency I found involves contradictions related to environmental protection between the township and developer’s plans. The developer promises compatibility with the surrounding land and visual buffers like trees and landscaping beds to help blend the facility in with the surrounding environment, providing schematics and stating the following in Article 1, point 2 of their memorandum, “The Data Processing Facility will be compatible with the other zones and uses in the area... adjacent to undeveloped agricultural land and mature forests... extended setbacks will further mitigate any potential visual impacts of the development.” However, the Howell Township Recreation Plan (Chapter 2, pg. 14) is abundantly clear, “GOAL: Preserving existing natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas. STRATEGY: Protect wetlands, woodlands, and scenic vistas. Get environmentally sensitive areas into permanent preservation.” A 1,000+ acre industrial complex adjacent to farmland and forest contradicts the township’s preservation goals. Buffers do not maintain rural land; they wall it off while the surrounding use is permanently changed.

The next issue I’d like to address is that the developer claims the facility will recycle water and avoid burdening the township’s system. But the scale tells another story: at full build-out, according to MHOG, the facility would require up to 3 million gallons of water per day. This same MHOG letter states that the peak summer demand of Marion, Howell, Osceola, and Genoa Townships is 4.5 million gallons per day. What is the ethicality of a single business using nearly the same amount of water as the combined peak summer demand of four townships? The Recreation Plan further emphasizes a 200-foot Shiawassee River buffer to protect water quality. This river, already a recovering EPA Superfund site contaminated by PCBs, remains vulnerable to runoff and storm drainage. Adding a high-risk industrial user so close to this watershed jeopardizes decades of environmental recovery. Additionally, the Environmental and Energy Study Institute reports that 56% of the electricity used by U.S. data centers comes from fossil fuels, further contributing to climate change. Michigan may seem like an ideal place to build these kinds of facilities with the abundance of fresh water we have available to us, however with water becoming an increasingly scarce resource across the U.S., it will only impact our state negatively to be pulling from these reservoirs with such increased uptake, especially when this water could have been used for crops instead.

Lastly, the developers for this project argue in Article 1, point 4 of their memorandum that the project will generate a large amount of tax revenue, possibly making them the largest contributor in Livingston County. Yet, studies show that the economic benefits of data centers are routinely overstated. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce acknowledges that while during construction the data center may employ over 1,500 workers, ongoing operation within the following years only supported about 157 local jobs annually. Forbes cites a ProPublica report about Washington state, where they’ve given out \$474 million in tax breaks for rural data centers since 2018, with benefits flowing primarily to Microsoft, not local communities. In fact, Michigan law already exempts data centers from millions of dollars of sales/use taxes on equipment and construction materials, significantly reducing local revenue. Even when taxes are collected from these facilities, they often end up funding infrastructure expansions that are demanded by the facility like roads, utilities, and water treatment upgrades, rather than schools, parks,

or community services like EMS. Meanwhile, residents who have moved to the rural area for its charm would face urban sprawl, increased traffic, noise pollution, and light pollution, reducing property values and the very quality of life Howell has long protected. The township's Master Plan prioritizes community identity and farmland preservation over speculative tax revenue. Saline Township even denied a similar rezoning for this reason, and is currently being sued by the developers for this denial. Is this the kind of politics we want brought into our community?

In conclusion, this rezoning request represents a short-term money grab for landowners and developers at the expense of Howell Township's long-standing vision and values. The township's Master Plan prioritizes farmland preservation, rural identity, and environmental stewardship over speculative economic promises. Once farmland is gone, it cannot easily be restored. Between 2017 and 2024, the U.S. lost 74.7 million acres in farmland according to the United States Department of Agriculture primarily due to urban sprawl and development for residential, commercial, and industrial uses. It is important now more than ever to protect our farmland. I urge the township board to deny this rezoning request and uphold the principles laid out in our Master Plan. At minimum, in order to conclude that the company's claims are legitimate, the township should do a thorough investigation using an independent or third-party to review the economic claims and tradeoffs of the proposed data center including temporary and permanent jobs, tax revenue versus tax breaks, landowner profit against permanent loss of arable farmland, strain on existing water and electricity infrastructure, and surrounding property value impacts before considering such a consequential decision.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Avery Bidwell

Sources:

- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewleahey/2024/08/13/tax-breaks-for-data-centers-bring-few-jobs/>
- <https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-center-energy-needs-are-upending-power-grids-and-threatening-the-climate>
- <https://www.uschamber.com/technology/data-centers-jobs-opportunities-communities-nationwide>
- <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/charts-of-note/chart-detail?chartId=111304>

**No data center**

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**From** Sarah Marsh [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 9:08 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I am writing to state that I do not wish for Howell to be a data center site. There is a huge tax on resources and out town and the roads have already had too much expansion with little to no regard for infrastructure and roads. A data center is not a welcome addition despite the surface level attraction of tax revenue.

Thank you for your attention to the is matter.  
Sincerely,  
Sarah Marsh

Sent from my iPhone

## No Data Centers!

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**From** KD Howell [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 9:13 PM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

This area does not need to be over taken by large scale industrial and data centers! Say no to this and save our precious land and town from being further destroyed by greedy people! The water used to cool it, the noise it will create will be awful for the area. Data centers will not create long term jobs either! This does not benefit the area one bit!! Save our farm land

## I support data center jobs in Livingston County!

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**From** James t Donnelly II [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 9:28 PM  
**To** Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Treasurer/Zoning Administrator Jonathan Hohenstein,

I urge you to support the Data Center development project proposed in Livingston County. As a county resident and member of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, I know this project will benefit families like mine by creating good construction and permanent jobs.

The tax revenue generated by this project will benefit our community, and I appreciate the development will use a closed-loop cooling system to minimize water usage and actually restore more water than it consumes, and at the same time, its quiet operation and low traffic impact will help preserve what makes Livingston County special.

We need to keep building things in Michigan if we are going to have vibrant communities that our kids will want to live and work in. This project is a great step on the road to a more prosperous Michigan.

Thank you,

James t Donnelly II

[REDACTED]  
1690 E M-36 Pinckney mi  
PINCKNEY, Michigan 48169



**Brent Earl**  
3025 Oak Grove Rd.  
Howell, MI 48855

September 20, 2025

**Howell Township Planning Committee**  
Howell Township  
3525 Byron Rd.  
Howell, MI 48855

**Subject:** Support for Locating the Proposed Data Center in Howell Township

**Dear Howell Township Planning Commission,**

I'm writing to strongly support locating the proposed data center in Howell Township. Our community offers a rare combination of available land, robust infrastructure, and a skilled, eager workforce. Howell Township would make for an ideal site for a project that can deliver high-paying jobs, new tax revenue, a boost to local businesses during construction, meaningful support for local nonprofits and schools, and long-term economic growth.

My family's roots in this community run deep. The Earl family moved to 3025 Oak Grove Road in 1864. My kids are sixth-generation Howell Township residents. We've watched Oak Grove Road evolve from a dirt path to the corridor it is today. I'm a Howell High School graduate, former President of the Livingston Arts Council (Howell Opera House), Howell Rotarian, 10-year Howell Public School Board member (2015-2024), and a former Howell Township Planning Commission member (2002-2005). My father, Dr. William Earl, served as Howell Township Supervisor for 8 years, and my grandfather served as a Township Trustee. We're invested in this township and committed to its future.

We support this project because it represents real opportunity, but also real responsibility. This is not about giving a "rubber stamp." The Planning Commission and Township Board must ensure infrastructure capacity, adherence to zoning ordinances, environmental safeguards, and meaningful engagement with residents affected during construction. Done right, this project can be transformative.

**Key benefits to Howell Township include:**

- **Economic impact:** 1,000+ construction jobs in the short term, followed by hundreds of high-quality permanent positions in IT, maintenance, and operations.

- **Tax base expansion:** Millions in new property and business tax revenue to fund public safety, maintain and improve existing infrastructure, and fund any new community projects.
- **Infrastructure improvements:** Investment in broadband, power, and transportation networks that benefit both residents and businesses.
- **Reputation and innovation:** Establishing our community as a technology and innovation hub, attracting other businesses.
- **Support for nonprofits:** Major data center companies invest in the communities they enter, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to local nonprofits and schools.
- **Schools:** Increased tax revenue can help lower the millage rate or fund projects through a sinking fund without raising taxes.

I've done my homework. I traveled to Bowling Green and New Albany, Ohio to see both operating and under-construction data centers firsthand. What I observed was encouraging:

- The completed facilities were well-landscaped, with berms, trees, and shrubs blending them into the environment.
- There was no noticeable noise pollution even a few hundred feet away.
- The buildings were unremarkable in the best sense; they fit the landscape without negative visual impact.

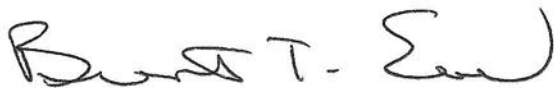
I also spoke with contractors and a community liaison at one of the data centers. Two points stood out:

- The average skilled labor wage was \$42 per hour, real money for local workers.
- The data center company offered community action grants benefiting local nonprofits and schools. A concrete sign of commitment beyond tax payments.

I know you'll hear opposing viewpoints. That's healthy. But please remember; local residents and the long-term future of Howell Township must come first. Your job is to ensure the project complies with all ordinances and standards. Once you do your work responsibly, **approving** this project will make Howell Township an even more desirable place to live and work.

I have been in your shoes on the planning commission when large projects needed to be reviewed, but nothing this big. I was on the school board during COVID so I can appreciate the passion you will hear from the different voices making your job that much harder. I wish the planning commission and the township board well. Our community is ready to partner with you to make this project a success. Thank you for your time, your diligence, and your dedication to our shared future.

Sincerely,



Brent Earl



## Rezoning for data center

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**From** [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 9:52 PM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Please reconsider this zoning change unless you can guarantee our well water won't be changed at all. If you can insure the insane amounts of water drawn from our aquifer will not cloudy or diminish our well water supply rezone. If you have a shred of decency you won't do anything to endanger the fresh water supply for the area.

I am urging you to reconsider this project for the residents sake.

Thank you for your service to our community. Please do right by us.

Joy Harvey  
Howell township resident

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

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inspector@howelltownshipmi.org

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From Thomas R. [REDACTED]

Date Sun 9/21/2025 9:52 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

 1 attachment (340 KB)

C8EFC182-6122-4388-814E-DDEE92375905.jpeg;

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Trusted Source has classified non-ionizing EMFs in the radiofrequency range as Group 2B, as a human carcinogen. These fields are produced by electronic data centers that operate 24/7/365

The Howell Township Planning Commission, Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc. or SC Develop LLC, shall not be allowed to rezone all or any agricultural parcels including #4706-28-400-016, 4706-07-100-003, 4706-07-200-018, 4706-07-100-004, 4706-07-200-017, 4706-07-300-007, 4706-07-300-008, 4706-07-300-006, 4706-07-400-005, 4706-18-100-003, 4706-18-100-004, 4706-18-200-003, 4706-18-200-002, 4706-18-400-002, 4706-18-400-003, 4706-18-400-001, 4706-18-400-021, 4706-07-200-003, 4706-18-400-017, 4706-18-300-002,

These AI data centers consume millions of water per day that will be contaminated when disposed. We need our water for agriculture and livestock. Not humanitarian ruining artificial intelligence. These data centers require reckless upgrades to the failing interconnected grid network. Who will pay for these upgrades?

These proposed data centers require huge farm land plots. Land contamination will never be rezoned to farmland.

Noise pollution and unnecessary increased traffic surrounding these data centers are environmental hazards to wildlife, agriculture, crops, vegetation damage by EMF


Respectfully  
Self Reliant Energy Company

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## The International Agency for Research on Cancer

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 9:56 AM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

 1 attachment (340 KB)  
C8EFC182-6122-4388-814E-DDEE92375905.jpeg;

**Howell Township Hall**  
**3525 Byron Rd.**  
**Howell, MI 48855**  
**inspector@howelltownshipmi.org**  
**www.howelltownshipmi.org**  
**Johnathon Hohenstein**  
**Howell Township Zoning Administrator**

The Howell Township Planning Commission or Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc., or SC Develop LLC, shall not be allowed to rezone agricultural Parcel #s: [4706-28-400-016](#), 4706-07-100-003, 4706-07-200-018, 4706-07-100-004, 4706-07-200-017, 4706-07-300-007, 4706-07-300-008, 4706-07-300-006, 4706-07-400-005, 4706-18-100-003, 4706-18-100-004, 4706-18-200-003, 4706-18-200-002, 4706-18-400-002, 4706-18-400-003, 4706-18-400-001, 4706-18-400-021, 4706-07-200-003, 4706-18-400-017, 4706-18-300-002,

These data centers consume and destroy millions of water per day. We need our water for agriculture and livestock. Not humanitarian ruining artificial intelligence.

These data centers require reckless upgrades to the failing interconnected grid network. Who will pay for these upgrades?

These proposed data centers require huge farm land plots. Land contamination will never be rezoned to farmland

Noise pollution and unnecessary increased traffic surrounding these data centers are environmental hazards to wildlife, agriculture, crops, vegetation damage by EMF

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Trusted Source has classified non-ionizing EMFs in the radiofrequency range as Group 2B, as a human carcinogen. These fields are produced by electronic data centers that operate 24/7/365

Respectfully  
Thomas Reinke  
Handy Township Precinct Deligate

Michael Arens, PE  
1365 N. Alstott Dr  
Howell, MI 48843

September 22, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission  
C/O: Jonathan Hohenstein, Howell Township Treasurer/ Zoning Administrator  
3525 Byron Rd  
Howell, MI 48855  
[treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org](mailto:treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org)

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I wish to express my support for the proposed data center, to be located in Howell Township.

I have been involved in many local infrastructure projects over the four decades that I have lived in Livingston County, and I have a keen interest in our community's development and well-being. I am Vice Chair of the Livingston County Board of Public Works and a member of the Howell-Marion Township Capital Improvement and Rate Advisory Board, but I am writing on my own behalf.

This project has the potential to be a major economic boon and catalyst for technological development, not just for the immediate communities of Howell Township, Howell and Fowlerville, but for Livingston County as a whole. The reasons for this will already have been well-stated: the development will create well-paying high-tech jobs, increase tax revenues for local communities and schools, and improve regional broadband and cloud computing infrastructure, among other things.

On top of this, the development can position Howell Township, and the broader community, as a technology center that is strategically located to support data processing demand throughout the state, and particularly for the Michigan University Research Corridor, and for industry, business and institutions in southeastern Michigan, where the tech economy is critical.

Moreover, anyone who uses a smartphone, the internet, a streaming service, e-commerce, etc. will benefit from this project. That means *everyone* will benefit in some incremental way, since practically everybody uses one tech platform or another. The tech world we all use and benefit from is data-center hungry. For example, Facebook reportedly operates some 95 data centers (individual buildings) in the US, Google operates about 100, Apple operates 19, and Amazon operates at least 70. These are just four top data center users among the thousands that exist. Ironically, opponents of data centers actually use data centers, built in other communities, to help organize their opposition.

It should be noted that the project is consistent with the policies of the Michigan Legislature, Governor Whitmer, and President Trump, to support data center development in Michigan. The reasons for these policies are varied: economic development; strengthening US leadership in AI, manufacturing and technology innovation; and even national security. It is in the interest of local units of government to align themselves with such policies where possible, especially considering the importance of these policies, and their bipartisan political support. <sup>(1)</sup>

Obviously, data centers are in the news lately, and are often criticized for several reasons: their proliferation, their impact on the character of a community and on the natural environment, their water and electricity consumption, noise, traffic, visual pollution, etc. Opposition has become more organized and vocal (again, aided by data centers). Its presence will certainly be felt here, and I appreciate the Planning Board's forbearance. And some of the concerns raised are valid. I am confident they all will be duly and rationally considered by the Township.

However, I would note that the proposed development is unlikely to spark a major proliferation of data centers in our local community, or negatively impact its character. This is particularly true in comparison to other regions (e.g. Northern Virginia, Silicon Valley, Dallas-Fort Worth), where opposition may be more understandable, and where data processing demand is very high. Generally speaking, community and environmental impacts can be mitigated by thoughtful planning, design, and close cooperation between the developer and the Township.

As for the immediate request for rezoning, I note the Howell Township Master Plan identifies key goals that apply to this request. These are: support private property rights while providing appropriate safeguards; encourage appropriate development based on existing character and development patterns; support the continued development of commercial and industrial uses in appropriate areas; and preserve rural character. I also note the proposed development abuts the future planned water district along the west Grand River Avenue corridor, so some level of increased development westward toward the proposed data center has been anticipated. Grand River Avenue has been a natural corridor for development from the County's earliest days, and it will continue to be. Of course, the preservation of rural character is very important to Howell Township residents, as it is to most everyone in the County. I believe the proposed development can balance these factors.

Concerns about the impact on water consumption deserve a closer look. The proposed water consumption for this project is currently undisclosed; however, water consumption is reported to be upwards of 1 to 2 million gallons per day for hyperscale data centers, and perhaps more. Typically, developers prefer to connect to existing municipal systems, and I'm sure the developers of this project have already been in discussion with the local system (that is, the MHOG Water and Sewer Authority).

To briefly explore this, the MHOG water plant on Norton Rd. (Marion Township) has an average daily production of about 2 MGD, and a maximum daily production of about 4 MGD. The current firm capacity of the MHOG well field is 7,000 gallons per minute, or 10 MGD.<sup>(2)</sup> I understand that capacity could be increased even more, with additional wells and plant upgrades. The MHOG well field taps into the Marshall formation, described as the most productive bedrock aquifer in Michigan.<sup>(3)</sup> Given the above demand figures, the proposed data center could consume a sizable fraction of MHOG's current production. However, the MHOG system seems capable of supplying near-term demand; and, with the necessary upgrades, is capable of supplying ultimate data center demand, plus the MHOG's service area buildout demand. These water withdrawals should have no measurable impact on residential wells, in either Howell Township or Marion Township, since the Marshall aquifer is in deep bedrock, while residential wells typically draw from upper aquifers and are generally quite remote from the MHOG well field. It should be cautioned, however, that the Marshall formation is not a limitless resource, and cases of overwithdrawal (e.g. in Ottawa County) are reported. We wouldn't want to risk that in our community. Therefore, robust water conservation measures should be insisted upon.

Similarly with electrical power consumption. Again, proposed consumption data is undisclosed at this time, but hyperscale data centers are reported to consume upwards of 100-200 MW of power, perhaps more. Also, figures for local power availability are not readily available. But assuming power demand varies pro rata with population, Livingston County represents about 4% of DTE's total 11,000 MW capacity for its entire service area <sup>(4)</sup>. I'm guessing that's somewhere around 400 MW. And again, whatever the exact number is, the proposed data center's demand will be a large fraction of the available supply to Livingston County as a whole. The capability of electricity providers to support this and other major projects (of whatever type) in the area depends entirely on their commitment to providing the necessary generation, transmission and distribution needs, now and in the future. I assume the developers have secured this commitment. It should be noted, however, that many areas in Livingston County already suffer from electricity reliability issues, though these are typically related to the local distribution systems, not (currently) transmission or generation.

But electric reliability is a statewide problem, and it is only highlighted by data center developments like this. In fact, Michigan ranks near the bottom in the US for power reliability.<sup>(5)</sup> Electrical generation is also a statewide issue. Michigan's "net-zero" plan to close our reliable baseload power plants puts residents statewide at risk of more outages and higher costs, regardless of how many solar farms or windmills are built.<sup>(6)</sup> Michigan definitely has a power reliability problem, and more developments of any size or sort anywhere in our state can make it worse. On the other hand, major developments like this will increase the overall customer base, and can help utilities make the necessary investments to upgrade the grid.

But again, this is a statewide issue, not a local one, and a much bigger issue than any one data center development can impact. The answer is not to limit developments, for developments will come. In fact, our policy is usually to encourage them ... especially if they are technology-focused, clean, and strategically valuable. Rejecting the development of a data center is no more of an answer to the problem than is the rejection of any other industrial, commercial or residential development. This is a supply issue, not a demand issue. Knowing that it is a looming problem for all Michigan communities, we should demand that lawmakers think about the logic of policies that promote power-dependent development on one hand, and cut baseload power production on the other. Sufficient, reliable and affordable electrical power across the grid should be the primary goal.

However, that's beside the point. It seems to me that the issues directly relating to the proposed data center can all be addressed, and they should not bar its ultimate approval. In the balance, the proposed development will be highly beneficial, to Howell Township, and to the entire surrounding area. I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

Michael Arens, PE

## Reference Notes

1. White House Fact Sheet: “President Donald J Trump Accelerates Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure”; July 2025  
  
“Michigan Legislature Finalizes Bill Extending Tax Breaks for Data Centers”; DataCenterDynamics.com; Z. Skidmore; Jan. 2025
2. Marion Howell Genoa Oceola Water and Sewer Authority Wellhead Protection Plan; Aug. 2023
3. “Hydrologic Framework of Mississippi Rocks in the Central Lower Peninsula of Michigan”; D Westjohn and T Weaver; US Geological Survey Publication; 1996
4. “Electricity in Michigan: A Primer”; J Hayes; Mackinac.org Publication; Feb. 2021
5. “Michigan’s Expensive Net-Zero Gamble”, J Hayes et al, Mackinac.org, Aug. 2025
6. “Michigan Utility Reliability Performance Worse than Ever, New CUB Report Finds”, CUBofMichigan.org, Sep. 2025

## Stop data center

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**From** Kelly Lopez [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 10:08 AM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

As a Howell resident I must speak up about the rezoning of the Van Gilder property and the plans to build a data center and who knows what else.

I do not support the rezoning of agricultural land to research and technology and I do not support the building of a data center. Our rural areas should not be used in such a way and we should listen to the voices of the people who live near where this is taking place.



Date: September 19, 2025

To:

Howell Township Planning Commission  
3525 Byron Road, Howell, MI 48855

From:

Bradley & Lindsey Redinger  
11195 Dawn Drive, Fowlerville, MI 48836

Dear Planning Commission Members,

My family lives in handy township and unequivocally loves this community. We are both newly elected government officials in the Fowlerville community. Lindsey sits on the Fowlerville School Board, and I sit on the Handy Township Board of Trustees. Personally, I was born and raised here, graduated in 1999, met my wife here and built our family. We still have two children in the Fowlerville Community School System that are multiple generations deep. I'm writing to express our support for the proposed rezoning for a new data processing facility. This project is indicative of a smart and forward-thinking use of land that will bring tangible benefits to our community. Science and technology are something that has been strongly emphasized and taught within our school system.

Data processing centers are great neighbors, and they give an opportunity for farmland owners to diversify their financial portfolio. These farmers play a vital role in our community, and we must support them; it's the only way the farming industry survives. It is likely the landowners aren't going to leave our community with this rezoning. They are also rooted here, several generations deep, that love to farm. More land will become available to buy, and they will be in prime position to do so. The farming tradition will continue. Data centers don't create traffic issues or place strain on our roads or other fragile infrastructures. We must depend on our industry professionals to make that determination for us, something that has already been done. Upgrades to roads and other facilities are something we can receive help from and will be a direct result of this project. They don't produce noise that is any different from our current surroundings or pollution like other types of development might. At the same time, they generate significant tax revenue that will help fund schools, roads, and public safety—without putting pressure on any of those services.

It would be nice to have extra tax revenue to reduce some of the burden on our taxpayers. The opportunity for bonds to be paid off, millages to be paid, debts, and other expenses to be easily afforded would be a huge burden taking off the back of our taxpayers and community members. Handy Township has land that could be turned into a park, the middle school could get the much-needed new computers, and our Fire Authority would reduce their debts; the possibilities are truly limitless for residents. As a Handy Township Board member, we are always considering and looking at ways to benefit not just our residents, but everyone in the surrounding communities. These ideas and projects are oftentimes put on the back burner for various funding reasons. Various Park ideas and sidewalk areas are always on the forefront, but

funding is difficult without imposing tax burden on the residents. The data center could provide these resources that are needed for community growth and improvement. Your own website says, "Howell Township- Embracing our Future". What a fantastic opportunity to capitalize on that ideology.

Importantly, this project fits well with the character of our community. I have seen other facilities like this where it blended into the surrounding area. There was nothing off-putting or imposing on residential homes where the use of natural green space and new tech fits the area. Both the Village of Fowlerville and Handy Township have large industrial areas scattered around the area where they blend into the natural land features with homes and farms. Other surrounding areas are growing and offering other fantastic opportunities we are lacking in. It's a clean, quiet use of space that supports our local and surrounding economies while preserving the quality of life we value. All while moving forward in community enrichment.

I encourage you to approve the rezoning and help bring this opportunity to our area for the benefit of generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Bradley & Lindsey Redinger



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## NO to Data Centers!!!

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From Steven Dennison [REDACTED]

Date Sun 9/21/2025 10:33 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I write to you today deeply concerned and alarmed by the proposed rezoning of agricultural land between Howell and Fowlerville for the development of a large-scale data center. The hearing set for Tuesday, September 23rd, demands that every consequence of this project be scrutinized because the stakes are high for our land, our water, our health, our community.

Here are the harms and facts that I believe must be taken very seriously:

### 1. Air Pollution & Health Risks

- Data centers often rely on backup diesel generators for power during outages or testing. These generators emit fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and other harmful pollutants. These contribute to asthma, respiratory issues, cardiovascular risks, and can exacerbate chronic health conditions.
- Even under normal operations, emissions from electricity generation (especially if fossil-fuel powered) add up significantly. Communities near data centers regularly report increased respiratory illness and other health impacts.

### 2. Noise Pollution

- Cooling systems (HVAC, fans), large backup generators, and industrial-scale infrastructure create continuous noise. According to recent studies, noise levels for cooling and generators can reach or exceed 85–100 dBA, which is loud enough to cause hearing damage and produce sleep disturbance, stress, headaches, and other health effects.
- Noise isn't occasional — it can be nearly constant, especially from cooling systems and standby power devices. The impact on quality of life for nearby residents is serious.

### 3. Water Usage and Stress on Local Water Resources

- Large data centers consume millions of gallons of water per day for cooling. Depending on the design and technology, some centers use 3 to 5 million gallons daily, especially where evaporative cooling is used.
- Even though Michigan is not in drought conditions like some parts of the country, heavy industrial water use can stress local supplies, affect wells, reduce flow to streams, and harm agriculture.

#### 4. Energy Demand and Utility Costs

- A data center draws massive amounts of electricity 24/7. This not only increases demand but often ultimately shifts costs to ratepayers. Local infrastructure may need to be upgraded (transmission, substations), with much of cost borne by the public.
- If the electricity is at least partly generated from fossil fuels, the environmental cost in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, air pollution, etc., increases substantially.

#### 5. Ecosystem, Land, & Surface Water Impacts

- Large impervious surfaces (e.g., buildings, parking, paved areas) increase stormwater runoff, potentially polluting local waterways. Soil erosion during construction, loss of wetlands, destruction of habitat are real risks.
- The rural and agricultural character of the land is itself an ecological resource: farmland, wildlife habitat, open space, watershed integrity. Once built over, much of that is lost or degraded.

#### 6. Economic and Social Disparities

- While tax revenue and profits are often cited as benefits, many studies find that job creation is limited in permanent positions relative to the size and cost of data center development. The bulk of jobs tend to be temporary (construction, etc.).
- Nearby homeowners may face loss of property value because of noise, air pollution, water stress, and changes in land use. The character of the community may shift in ways that are difficult to reverse once the facility is in place.

#### 7. Climate and Long-Term Sustainability

- The growth in data centers contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. According to recent research, U.S. data centers now consume an ever-increasing slice of the nation's electricity, much of which comes from fossil fuels. Without strict regulation, the carbon footprint of these facilities could undermine climate mitigation goals.

Given all this before any decision the company and VanGilders should be required to:

- Require a full environmental impact assessment, including air quality, noise levels, water usage, stormwater runoff, and effects on neighbors' property values.
- Demand transparency about where tax funds will go, who benefits, and what protections will be in place for nearby residents.
- Consider alternative zoning or conditions (buffer zones, limitations on noise/emissions, water use limits, etc.) if any approval is contemplated.
- Encourage robust public participation - hold forums, allow neighborhood input, ensure people understand the risks.

Our neighborhood, utility bills, health, property values, and the rural character of our community are all at stake. I strongly urge you to oppose this and raise these points; insist that the decision not be approved.

Thank you for your time and your serious consideration of what this means for our community now and for the generations to come.

Please view this video on the harm these centers cause for your information as well: <https://youtu.be/t-8TDOFqkQA>

Steve Dennison

Concerned community member

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## Rezoning for data centers

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From Suhail Sayage [REDACTED]

Date Sun 9/21/2025 10:44 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I want to express my concern about the possibility of over 1,000 acres of prime farmland being rezoned to accommodate huge data centers.

Per the statement from MHOG, the initial facility will use over 365 million gallons of water per year. That is just one facility. Of course there will be many more facilities built on 1,000 acres. Our water table can not sustain that kind of additional usage. We have a well at our home. What happens to us when our well goes dry? Is Howell township setting aside millions of dollars to help home owners drill deeper wells? Of course not.

Every township trustee talks about the importance of preserving our farmland. Rezoning over 1,000 acres of farmland for data centers is NOT preservation. Drying up people's wells is not helping to preserve farmland. If their livestock can not be watered, farmers will have to stop farming and sell their land.

There is so much at stake for so many families. Please take time to really research the problems these facilities cause. Please don't knowingly and willfully drain the water wells of countless families.

Last year Genoa Township residents voted to change their entire board of trustees. Why? Because the trustees were not listening to the people in Genoa Township. Decisions were being made to benefit a hand full of people while harming the majority of residents.

If it can happen in Genoa, it can happen in Howell Township.

Please do not approve the rezoning request.


Tracy Sayage

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## September 23, 2025 Zoning Amendment Meeting

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**From** Gloria Moore [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 10:46 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

 1 attachment (18 KB)  
PC2025-20 and PC2025-21.docx;

Hello,

Please accept the attached comment for the upcoming zoning amendment meeting. I am opposed to the conversion of the agricultural land located primarily along Grand River and Marr Roads to Research and Technology.

Sincerely,

Gloria Moore

Gloria Moore  
4450 Indian Camp Trail  
Howell, Michigan 48855  
September 21, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission  
3525 Byron Road  
Howell, Michigan 48855

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Regarding file #PC2025-20 and #PC2025-21, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendment of the zoning ordinance and map that would rezone the following parcels from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT):

- Parcel #s: 4706-07-100-003, 4706-07-200-018, 4706-07-100-004, 4706-07-200-017, 4706-07-300-007, 4706-07-300-008, 4706-07-300-006, 4706-07-400-005, 4706-18-100-003, 4706-18-100-004, 4706-18-200-003, 4706-18-200-002, 4706-18-400-002, 4706-18-400-003, 4706-18-400-001, 4706-18-400-021, 4706-07-200-003, 4706-18-400-017, 4706-18-300-002.

I have numerous concerns regarding the conversion of this land away from Agricultural Residential. The concerns are not just conjecture, many are supported by a study released by the U of M Ford School of Science and Technology (What Happens When Data Centers Come to Town), and by additional research, such as a documentary released by Business Insider. Primary concerns are as follows:

1. The amount of noise pollution, both audible and low-frequency noise (ELF) and vibration reduce quality of life, disrupts wild-life, and can cause actual health problems such as insomnia, stress, anxiety, and potential neurological problems.
2. Data centers generally require substantial amounts of electricity and water, which could result in shortages and/or substantially increased rates. It could also threaten the viability of wells, possibly forcing the not insignificant cost of drilling a deeper well or possibility the loss of access to a well on residents.
3. The extreme tax incentives offered to these projects may neutralize any economic benefit they bring. This can result in any local economic benefit being offset by reduction in State funds for the community.



4. Representations in the referenced report and other sources also disclose that data centers don't deliver the amount of employment represented.
5. The amount of farmland in the area being converted to other uses is disturbing. I've learned through various other nearby township meetings that this part of the state has particularly fertile soil. We shouldn't be irreparably damaging the land. There are plenty of abandoned factories and other properties in Michigan that could be used for such a project. In today's world of supply issues and unstable foreign relations, it's critical that we maintain the ability to produce food locally.

This list is not all inclusive, only the more significant concerns. We made sacrifices to move to Howell Township to enjoy the benefits of rural living, particularly enjoying a quiet backyard, wildlife, less traffic, and much less light distorting the night sky. We live roughly two miles from the site and could lose the very things that brought us here, not to mention the health risks. If those concerns become reality, we could find ourselves trapped in a house that we can't sell because the area has become undesirable. While I respect property rights; rights come with responsibilities. Does one or a small number of families have the right to materially alter the quality of life of an entire community for personal gain?

I am opposed to the rezoning. I respectfully request that you give serious consideration to all the risks and negative impacts associated with both becoming home to a massive data center and continuing to sacrifice farmland.

Sincerely,

Gloria Moore

## No to rezoning PLEASE

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**From** Vanessa North [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 11:29 AM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>; Vanessa North <vskeItis@hotmail.com>

I won't ramble on about the reasons why I don't want a data center or anything else near me except farmland. I just want to be sure that my voice is heard.

I live at 2950 w marr rd and my parents have owned this land for 47 years. I am a disabled veteran of the US Army and I live out in the country because I love the quiet out here and was planning to retire here.

Please vote no to the rezoning.

Feel free to call me if needed.

[REDACTED]  
Vanessa North

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## Opposing the Data Center

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**From** Daniel Oswald [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 12:07 PM  
**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed data center in Howell Township. As a resident and the operator of a fox sanctuary located nearby, I am deeply concerned about the significant negative impacts this project would have on our community, environment, and local wildlife. Below, I outline the reasons why a data center is unsuitable for our township, emphasizing the harm it would cause to the natural habitat, electrical grid, water supply, and noise levels.

### **Reasons a Data Center is Harmful to Howell Township:**

#### **1. Environmental Disruption and Threat to Wildlife**

The proposed data center would severely disrupt the natural environment, particularly affecting the delicate habitat of the foxes at my sanctuary. These animals rely on a quiet, stable ecosystem to thrive, and the construction and operation of a data center would introduce heavy machinery, habitat destruction, and ongoing disturbances. This could displace wildlife, fragment their habitats, and threaten the survival of vulnerable species like the foxes under my care, which are already stressed by habitat loss in the region.

#### **2. Strain on the Electrical Grid**

Data centers are notorious for their immense energy consumption, often requiring massive amounts of electricity to power servers and cooling systems. This would place an unsustainable burden on Howell Township's electrical grid, potentially leading to higher energy costs for residents, increased risk of power outages, and a reliance on fossil fuels that undermines our community's efforts toward sustainability. The grid's stability is critical for our homes and businesses, and a data center's demands could jeopardize this.

#### **3. Depletion of Water Resources**

Data centers require substantial amounts of water for cooling purposes, which could strain Howell Township's water supply. This is particularly concerning in a region where water resources are already carefully managed. Excessive water use could deplete local groundwater, affect agricultural needs, and limit availability for residents, posing a direct threat to our community's long-term water security.

#### **4. Noise Pollution**

The constant hum of cooling systems and other equipment in data centers generates significant noise pollution, which would disrupt the peace and tranquility of Howell Township. For both residents and wildlife, including the foxes at my sanctuary, this noise could cause stress, alter behavior, and diminish the quality of life in our rural community. The sanctuary's mission to

provide a safe, serene environment for rescued foxes would be directly undermined by this disturbance.

#### **5. Additional Community and Environmental Impacts**

Beyond the above concerns, data centers can lead to increased traffic from construction and operations, further air pollution from backup generators, and the potential for hazardous waste from equipment maintenance. These factors would degrade the quality of life for residents and harm the natural beauty that makes Howell Township a desirable place to live.

In conclusion, the construction of a data center in Howell Township would have far-reaching consequences for our environment, wildlife, and community resources. As someone dedicated to protecting foxes at my sanctuary, I am particularly alarmed by the threat to their habitat and well-being. I urge you to prioritize the long-term health of our township and reject this proposal in favor of preserving our natural environment and community well-being.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I am happy to discuss this matter further or provide additional information about the impact on my fox sanctuary and the broader ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Patton

Owner Foxes Journey Sanctuary

Paul and Lisa Fergus  
4120 N. Burkhart Rd  
Howell, MI 48855

9/21/2025

Howell Township Planning Commission and Board  
3525 Byron Rd  
Howell, MI 48855

File #: PC2025-20

PETITIONER: Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc.

Parcels #: 4706-07-100-003, 4706-07-200-018, 4706-07-100-004,  
4706-07-200-017, 4706-07-300-007, 4706-07-300-008, 4706-07-300-006,  
4706-07-400-005, 4706-18-100-003, 4706-18-100-004, 4706-18-200-003,  
4706-18-200-002, 4706-18-400-002, 4706-18-400-003, 4706-18-400-001,  
4706-18-400-021, 4706-07-200-003, 4706-18-400-017, 4706-18-300-002

We oppose the rezoning of these parcels from AR to RT for a data center. Rezoning will benefit primarily 1 landowner in the township to the detriment of the township residents who are not in the rezoning request for some of the following reasons.

1. It appears that the State of Michigan does not allow entities like our township to tax the equipment and inventory inside data centers as they do for other companies in the township. At the Switch data center in Kent county, the Kent Intermediate School District and Caledonia School District had to go to court to be able to collect property tax but could not tax the equipment inside the building per the State of Michigan Treasury Department.
2. Research from the University of Michigan (attached) has shown there is little benefit to municipalities, schools and residents when data centers move into an area.
3. Data centers consume tremendous amounts of water and electricity. The bulk of residents in our township use well water that can be affected and we are sure the board is aware electrical service is interrupted any time we have severe weather.
4. The lack of transparency about the request is troubling. The residents who own the parcels above were required to sign NDA's. We assume the commission and board had to do the same? Why should township residents be kept in the dark and allow the commission and board to make a decision to rezone when apparently the owner of the bulk of properties initiated this request and has full knowledge of what company wants to build the center and its impacts.
5. My parents bought a farm on Marr Rd in 1960 and raised 11 children on that farm. Lisa and I built our home in 1990 abutting that farm and raised our family here. We do not

want the zoning to change the rural atmosphere of our township and ask the commission and board to reject this request.

Sincerely,

Paul and Lisa Fergus



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## Data Center in Howell

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**From** Nina Aeschliman [REDACTED]

**Date** Sun 9/21/2025 12:52 PM

**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello, I am writing about the data center That will possibly go in near Owosso and Grand River in Howell and Fowlerville. I am a Fowlerville resident and live about a mile from the location. I have many concerns. I have received information from the farmer who owns the land. He has sent me things to try to help me limit my concerns. Unfortunately, a lot of the information is very vague and specifies that the company will try different things to prevent it affecting our water and it will "potentially" help fund areas of our schools. All of this is a maybe. and from what I've learned with big company is as they like to lie. I'm sure they have hopes in helping the schools and raising the home values and not messing with the water table. With these risks to approve something like this I would like some guarantee. At this point, I don't agree with the data center going in. I like the community the way it is. If we were ever going to potentially agree to a center like this, I would like it in writing how much they are going to donate to the schools and guarantee that it isn't going to affect my water supply. All of it again is just they are going to "try" nothing is set in stone or guaranteed that these things will happen. So for me, I would like you to vote no on the zoning. I would like it to stay far land. Thank you for listening to the resident of Livingston County. Thank you for all you do!

Nina

Sent from my iPhone