

RECEIVED

SEP 22 2025

HOWELL TOWNSHIP

Ian & Sarah Boyle & Family

3278 Warner Road
Howell, MI 48855
09/22/2025

To the Members of the Howell Township Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed zoning change from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT) for the property currently under consideration for development as a data center.

Our township's AR zoning was created to preserve farmland, open space, and the rural character that defines our community. Replacing prime farmland with an industrial-scale data center is not consistent with that vision.

A data center poses several risks and negative impacts:

- **Noise pollution** from large-scale cooling equipment running 24/7.
- **Loss of farmland and rural heritage**, permanently changing the landscape of our community.
- **Utility and infrastructure strain**, including massive electrical demand and potential water usage.
- **Decreased property values** for nearby farms and residences due to the incompatibility of industrial development in a rural setting.
- **Dangerous precedent**, opening the door for more farmland to be converted to industrial use, eroding our township's agricultural identity.

While we understand the desire to bring economic development, a data center is not an appropriate use for this location. The long-term costs to our community far outweigh any short-term financial gain.

I urge the Planning Commission to deny this zoning change request and to uphold the original intent of Agricultural Residential zoning: protecting our farmland, our quality of life, and the rural character of Howell Township.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ian & Sarah Boyle

Rezoning Request Concerns

From Marie Raciti [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:06 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern:

I am a lifelong resident of Livingston county and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rezoning Request for the data center project. I regret that I cannot attend in person due to a prior commitment.

My concerns regarding this project stem from a deep-seated belief that it will negatively impact our community without offering commensurate benefits. The assertion that data centers bring improvements is, in my opinion, unsubstantiated. Instead, I foresee several significant drawbacks, most notably the exacerbation of already rising energy costs in Southeast Michigan. The recent grid improvements, implemented without sufficient community input, have already led to increased expenses for residents, and this data center project would undoubtedly further strain our resources and increase our collective energy burden.

It is imperative that projects of this magnitude receive thorough, transparent, and community-driven evaluation before proceeding, and I believe this has not been the case.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of approving this rezoning request. The short-term economic gains are far outweighed by the potential for negative environmental impact, increased energy costs, and the lack of demonstrable benefit to our community.

Thank you for your time,

Marie Raciti

Upcoming meeting

From Nicole Alimpich [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:10 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow the property to be rezoned. This community does not want this and we are now looking for our representatives to make sure that does not happen!

The land I am writing about is Parcel #4706-28-400-016 (corner of M-59 and Grand River in Howell, MI).

Thank you,
Nicole Alimpich

NO to rezoning!

From Alex&Krista [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:10 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I have lived in Howell Township for 3 years. We chose to raise our children in this community because of the slower pace, natural setting, and distance from the loud industry noises found in metropolitan areas.

As somebody who has worked in the technology field for over a decade, I am strongly OPPOSED to the following proposal requests due to the devastating impacts they will have on our community's health and safety.

PETITIONER: Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc., File# PC2025-21

ARTICLE 23 – Amending the Zoning Ordinance and Map,

REQUEST: For a text amendment to Article 2 – Definitions, regarding Article 5 - Research and Technology (RT) Zoning District.

And

PETITIONER: Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc., File# PC2025-20, 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](#), (full legal descriptions available upon request.)

ARTICLE 23 – Amending the Zoning Ordinance and Map,

REQUEST: To rezone property from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT)

Do NOT allow these changes to be made. This is bad for our community's health, the wildlife in our area, and our quality of life as a whole.

-Alex Smith
2024 Oak Grove Rd

Sent from my iPhone

Data Center Rezoning

From Chelsea White [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:16 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello Mr. Hohenstein,

I'm writing you this in desperation and fear. My parents live right on the border of the proposed data center in Howell Township. Both them and their neighbors have lived in this area for over 40 years. They're scared of the ramifications of this data center and I am too.

We've built our homes and our lives here and feel like if this is approved, we will have to be uprooted and move away.

I've just set down roots myself and will have no choice but to leave with my parents.

I have come to this conclusion because the vast majority of people who live in close proximity to data centers have many problems. Data centers are noisy, cause large amounts of light pollution, and use insane amounts of water and electricity among other issues.

Im asking you to please think of our community and the people who have built it. This does not belong in our town.

Please refer to these videos for more information:

<https://youtu.be/t-8TDOFqkQA>

<https://youtu.be/DGjj7wDYail>

Thank you for listening,
Chelsea White [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

RE: Proposed change of Zoning Meeting on Tuesday, September 23,2025

From robert rider [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:21 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

The proposed data center in Howell Township SHOULD NOT be approved.

The money for the taxes might look good....but at what cost for the residents. MHOG says the millions of gallons of water is no problem for them to handle. We haven't been told what the daily usage would be. Sounds like the MHOG representative is in a hurry to push this through without actual consideration to the current residents. Sure, they can run water and sewer lines out to the affected area.....but it is the residents who will have to pay to be connected to these services, and then pay the monthly services for the rest of our lives.

The electrical grid is another matter.

We are a rural community, but it appears that the almighty dollar is speaking very loud to Mr. Van Gilder and to Howell Township itself.

Does anyone on the Howell Board live in the immediate area that might be affected? Just wondering.

I am afraid that once this Pandora's Box is opened what else will spill out of it.

Judith Rider
2768 Fleming Road
Fowlerville, MI

I would like a reply just to know that you received this email. Just say 'got it'.

Data Center Zoning/Construction

From John Wirt [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:25 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

As a life long resident of Howell, I would like to express my thoughts on the alleged data center construction.

I urge the board to reconsider this project and do not move forward with its construction. The environmental impact of this proposed project greatly outweighs any of the benefits the data center may bring.

Additionally, the charm of Howell is that it is a small town in a rural area. There is no need to ruin the charm of this area with such a project.

Thank you for your time.

Data Center

From Mike Kupfer [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:30 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

The approval of the data center project will single handily destroy livingston county , one of the best counties in the state of Michigan. I moved to Livngston County 30 years ago from Novi to escape the massive overcrowding and gridlock problems that took place due to poor growth planning. The people of this county moved here because of the vast amount of beautiful nature and open land that exist in this county . The majority of people have moved to Livingston County from over crowded crime ridden areas like Novi, Troy, Wixom to escape from big city problem. Don't make us move again . Just recently the Genoa Township planning commission rejected a plan for an Ashphalt Factory to be built in Genoa Township mainly because of the huge backlash the public displayed at the meeting . I hope you show the same respect and concern for the people of Livingston County and vote no on this project.

LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES.OF OTHER LOCAL PLANNING BOARDS WE WILL NOT VOTE FOR THOSE WHO DON'T LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.

Rezoning for Data Center in Howell - time sensitive!

From GARY & SHANNON WOOD [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:34 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it may concern:

My husband and I recently became aware that the township is meeting tomorrow afternoon to vote on rezoning certain areas in Howell in order to allow a large datacenter to be constructed in the area. We will attend the meeting but wish to voice our opinion (via email) AGAINST allowing this zoning change to happen!

Both of the proposed areas for the datacenter(s) are within one mile or less of our rural / ag residence. We are very concerned about the negative effects that the construction and running of a huge datacenter that close will have on our quality of living here. We are appalled at the lack of research and transparency that is available to the public regarding such a large construction. In learning about what these large buildings/ businesses require in terms of resources (huge amounts of water and electricity, namely) we are concerned about the stresses to those resources in our area! Exactly who is shouldering the cost of this construction and the pressure on the water and electric infrastructure?

There is precedence for this. In other states where datacenters have been built and are running, people living nearby report horrible things that have happened to their once quiet country neighborhoods as a direct result. Water tables and aquifers drained, affecting homeowner's wells and plumbing; construction noise and dust and debris; loud humming noises constantly; light pollution; displacement of wildlife; doubling of electric bills -- all without direct benefit to the area residents or schools, or evidence of promised "jobs". We have no desire for this to be a part of our community!

We moved to the outskirts of Howell 25 years ago. Aside from living close to a mildly noisy airport, it has been a beautiful and peaceful place to live. We feel that if these datacenters are allowed to take hold in Howell, this quality of living that we all enjoy here will be ruined. Property values will decline because who wants to live next to a high tech industrial monster? You can bet we won't.

Once again, we would like to **STRONGLY** state our opposition to the zoning change to tech/industrial from res/ag. **NO DATACENTER HERE!**

Respectfully and adamantly,

Gary and Shannon Wood
4000 Crandall rd., Howell 48855

NO Data Centers in Howell!!

From Nicole Cook [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:36 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hi, I am emailing today to express my deep concerns over the potential of rezoning large parcels of Agriculture/Residential Land to Research & Technology use.

We are already seeing overarching negative effects of these large data centers polluting towns & wasting water in other areas of the country (see articles below). Whole wells being undrinkable & sound pollution being heard at unsafe levels in homes over a mile away. These companies are destroying the planet and the communities they reside in at an unimaginable rate.

This land is zoned for agriculture & residential for a reason, and no amount of money being thrown at it, should warrant a change that could be so damaging to a community such as ours.

Livingston County Cities are already growing rapidly, they are already competitive with other area cities, & there is not enough affordable housing as it is. The jobs that a data center would potentially generate, does not necessarily mean jobs for OUR community, it means more influx into a space that already is suffering an affordable housing shortage. This doesn't serve our community, it serves the company. & our community should always come first.

At a time when we should be supporting farmers, renewable energy, and community needs... allowing room for a data center to destroy our city (and the planet) should not even be under consideration. It's an easy no from the residents of Howell. I can only hope that it is an easy no from those who claim to hold our best interest at heart.

No fortune 500 company is ever going to put us first, instead, it's up to you.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Nicole

<https://stand.earth/press-releases/new-report-finds-microsofts-ai-data-center-demand-to-surge-600-require-as-much-power-as-entire-new-england-region/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8gy7lv448o>

<https://www.techpolicy.press/data-center-boom-risks-health-of-already-vulnerable-communities/>

Data center

From Tracey Comis [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:38 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>


My name is Tracey Comis and I am vehemently opposed to the building of a data center here in Livingston county.

The detrimental effects of these centers far outweigh any possible benefits and I would like to be on record as one of the many residents of Howell who oppose this.

Tracey Comis
11351 Byron rd
Howell Mi
48855

Tuesday September 21, 2025

From Self Reliant Energy [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:45 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

BC7418C0-A78C-4D75-BA5D-FD1A20B5FF76.jpeg;

EMF exposure from Data Centers, EV charging stations, smart meters, increase health risks, including cancer, reproductive and developmental issues, in addition other internal organ health concerns. EMF causes interference with medical devices, communications systems, Electric Vehicles and could corrupt the data integrity of the data center.

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, irreparable environmental damage, unnecessary increased traffic surrounding these data centers are environmental hazards to wildlife, agriculture, crops, vegetation damage by EMF.

inspector@howelltownshipmi.org

Proposed Rezoning in Howell Township - Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc., File# PC2025-20,

From Marie Walker [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:46 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

My name is Marie Walker and I am a Howell Township resident. I am writing to you today regarding my opposition to the proposal to rezone property from Agricultural Residential to Research and Technology in our community.

I'm concerned that the rural feel of our greater community will go away if the parcels in question are rezoned (especially if the proposed data center is built on the land). Ongoing noise and light pollution will change the feel of this rural area completely. I am greatly concerned about the lasting impacts to our wildlife, community health, and water resources, which will be felt by generations to come.

I hope that these concerns - and the concerns of my fellow residents - will be taken carefully into consideration prior to a decision being made about rezoning this spot in Howell Township.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,
Marie Walker
5773 Crandall Road

STRONG opposition to the Meta Data Center

From Jessica K [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:48 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to you in STRONG OPPOSITION of the potential data center that is to be voted on tomorrow night (9/23) which will sit on beautiful farmland owned by the Van Gilder family.

Here are my concerns regarding this data center:

The negative economic impact far outweighs any positives this data center may bring. Yes, it may employ a handful of people (who probably are too specialized to even live in this area). But my larger concern is the potential to deplete our aquifer by consuming 1-3 MILLION GALLONS of water PER DAY. How will this impact the homes and businesses nearby who depend on this aquifer to provide them with clean drinking and bathing water? How will they taint the drinking water by pumping into their system and then discharging it into the aquifer?

There are promises of it bringing tax revenue to the township, however previous data centers across the country have shown otherwise. Communities who've already been invaded by these centers have been left holding the bag when it comes to grid and infrastructure improvements as well as long term impacts to the community. It has been shown that big tech negotiates tax abatements and exemptions meaning that very few dollars actually flow through the community to benefit from it. I am also very concerned about what this will do to our electricity bills. They have already risen 150% from this time last year. What will our bills look like after the data center maxes out the power grid in this area and then further infrastructure improvements are required to be completed all on the tax payers dime?

These giant buildings are also an eye/ear/and soul sore on the character of this community. These are not pretty buildings with nice greenery upfront, they are sprawling industrial warehouses with round-the-clock mechanical hums, rooftop cooling fans and LOTS of truck traffic. Videos of data centers in Iowa and Virginia show residents experiencing a CONSTANT low-frequency hum that travels far beyond the property line. Howell Township is a legacy farm community - replacing beautiful productive land with 500 ft long metal boxes forever changes the character and landscape of our quaint community.

Thank you for your consideration and I certainly hope when you make this decision, you will keep in mind the residents who call this beautiful place home.

Jessica Kenyon
5400 Lindemere Dr.
Fowlerville, MI
(Resident approx 3 miles from the proposed build site)

Re: comments for rezoning meeting scheduled for 9/23

From Kayla Lyons [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:53 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kayla Lyons. I would prefer to attend the rezoning meeting in person, but my children will be playing Baseball in Howell from 6-7:30pm. Please review my comments below.

My family moved to Livingston County one year ago, after living in Orlando, FL. Being raised on a farm in a rural Michigan community similar to Howell, I know the importance of maintaining farmland to feed the world.

Although our address is Brighton, we live right near the border of the school district not far from Three Fires Elementary. Our pediatrician is located in Howell, our children play baseball in Howell, and we frequent restaurants in Howell several times a month.

The importance of maintaining farmland and the opportunity for single-family homes to be built is what keeps the small-town appeal of Howell. Should the rezoning be approved it would be the beginning of the end for the rural feel of the community, not to mention an potential increase in electricity costs passed on to residents.

It is no secret that data centers draw tremendous amounts of water, which could lead to the drying of wells in surrounding areas. Many of the homes here still operate on a well. Additionally, the electricity these centers draw are monumental. Local residents are already seeing an increase in monthly bills from DTE and power outages during winter storms. There is no telling what the shift in priority will be should a corporate, big tech data center be the new kid on the block. Sure it might bring temporary construction jobs and be a tax money influx, but the long term effects do not outweigh these to the local residents. There is no going back if the rezoning is approved.

Unless it is determined that the data center would have to run off of a sustainable operation, such as solar or wind power, I don't think it's a good idea to consider it at this time.

We must protect our Great Lakes and smaller bodies of water. I urge you to [review this article from the Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#) regarding the water consumption to operate a data center.

The influx of jobs during the construction phase do not outweigh the lack of jobs for daily operation of a data center. After a quick search on reddit seeking real experiences of employees of other data centers, it is shared that an estimated employee ratio for a 48 MegaWatt Data Center is approximately 28 full time employees for daily operation - all others being vendors coming and going.

Please reconsider the potential zoning change. This is not a good idea. I prefer my well not to dry up due to the expected water usage for cooling.

Kind Regards,

Kayla Lyons
Resident of Livingston County

--

Kayla Lyons



Opposition to Proposed Data Center Construction in Howell Township

From Bill Jones [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:55 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Zoning Administrator,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Howell Township regarding the proposed construction of a data center within our community. After careful consideration, I would like to formally express my opposition to this project and to request that the township reevaluate the potential impacts before granting any further zoning approvals.

My opposition is rooted in several key concerns:

- **Environmental Impact:** Data centers are known for their significant energy consumption and cooling demands, which can strain local resources and contribute to increased carbon emissions. The introduction of such a facility could alter the township's environmental balance, particularly if renewable energy sources are not prioritized.
- **Water Usage:** Many data centers use vast amounts of water for cooling, which may affect local supply and put pressure on our community's water resources, especially during dry seasons or droughts.
- **Noise and Aesthetics:** The construction and operation of a data center often bring increased noise from generators and cooling systems, in addition to changes to the visual landscape due to large industrial buildings. Such changes could affect the quality of life and property values for surrounding residents.
- **Traffic and Infrastructure:** Building and maintaining a data center may lead to increased traffic, particularly from construction vehicles and service personnel, which could strain existing infrastructure and roads.
- **Economic Considerations:** While data centers may bring some economic activity, they typically offer fewer permanent jobs compared to other types of development. The limited employment opportunities may not justify the environmental and social costs incurred by the community.

I urge the township to carefully consider these factors and to seek input from local residents before moving forward with any zoning determinations. Our community's well-being and sustainability should remain the top priority.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your transparency and continued engagement with the public regarding this significant proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill Jones

4873 Milet RD, Fowlerville MI (Howell Township)

Opposed to data center!

From Bryce and Desireé Anderson [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:59 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Do NOT allow this to come to our area! This is a disaster environmentally, and a drain to our water supply and public grid! Cities with these have huge problems for residents. Please don't throw your residents under the bus chasing money! I keep hearing "jobs!" But the construction will be very temporary work, with no guarantees it will go to locals at all, and the permanent jobs are very few compared to what we'll lose! We can't allow this monstrosity here!

Letter of Support for Rezoning to Enable Data Center Development

From David Dennis [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:01 PM
To Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

As a Howell citizen and technology professional working in enterprise infrastructure and cloud computing, I strongly support the proposed rezoning to allow for the development of large-scale data centers in Howell Township.

These facilities are critical to powering the digital economy. They support everything from banking and healthcare to logistics and education. More importantly, they represent a strategic investment in our region's future - bringing:

- High-paying jobs in IT, facilities management, and construction
- Increased tax revenue to support public services
- Attraction of complementary industries such as cybersecurity and fiber optics
- A stronger foundation for innovation and economic diversification

Howell Township has a unique opportunity to position itself as a leader in digital infrastructure. These facilities are essential to modern life and can be integrated seamlessly into the township. I respectfully urge the Commission to approve this rezoning and help unlock long-term growth for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Dennis
1006 Tanager Trail
Howell, MI 48843

David Dennis
[REDACTED]

No to the proposed data center

From Kate W [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:03 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I've been living in Howell since 2018. The proposed plan for the massive Data center makes me wonder if it will be a community will be worth remaining in. These data centers have a huge impact upon our environment and community resources. I have not faith that large corporations like Meta will have the interests of the community at heart nor have they proven to care for transparency. The supposed benefits being pushed of boosts to our economy and jobs are not guaranteed and in fact seem unlikely to benefit the current citizens of Howell.

I urge those making on a decision to this matter to be transparent and do further research on this matter. These facilities demand a lot of water and power to run and these will affect our community. I cannot imagine any scenario in which the benefit is outweigh the cons of building a data center here.

Sincerely,
Kate Wheeler

Data Center

From k.cronkhite [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:05 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I'm writing to express my horror and disgust at the proposal to build a data center in Howell Township.

There has been no transparency. No explanation on who will pay for the roads and power needed. No explanation on the noise and disturbances it will cause to the community.

Do not bring this to our community!

Karen Cronkhite
Howell, MI

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Please don't allow a data center here!

From Desireé Anderson [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:06 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

One look at any of the Howell local groups on Facebook and you'll see how vehemently the public is opposed to having such a huge industrial space in the midst of our beautiful farmland. Think of the habitat destruction and the harmful light pollution and what it will do to our already disappearing biodiversity. In the last 20 years I've seen butterflies and birds disappear from our country, as well as wildflowers. It is more important than ever to help preserve the green spaces we have, and "replanted" sterile landscaped spaces are no replacement for habitat that already exists.

On a warning world we must preserve these things. And we must protect our fragile water supply. I have heard no good concrete measures in place to protect the water supply here from this greedy industry. I'm begging you to deny the zoning change.

NO on data centers

From Andrew Kimball - [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:12 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hi Planning Commission,

I would like to strongly urge you NOT to allow ANY large scale data centers in our lovely city of Howell and especially in any of the surrounding countryside. Howell has a quaint small town feel and is surrounded by beautiful farmland and natural landscapes. Everyone in this community lives here because of that small town feel. To the detriment of us all, we continue to see that land and feeling we all love get eroded away by commercial development and large scale subdivisions.

A large data center brings a lot of negatives that I'm sure you have heard. First to me is the destruction of our natural resources. Every acre we develop is another anchor we will never get back. Second would be the excessive consumption of water. There have been multiple cases where a data center has run wells dry for the surrounding neighborhoods. The water becomes unsanitary and non-drinkable whatsoever! This also changes the entire watershed ecosystem. New sewage infrastructure would be required and all the burden would fall onto the average citizen, not the mega corp that swindled us out of cheap land. Third is the noise exposure. To live in a house where the typical noise goes from evening wildlife to the constant drone of an industrial complex is lifechanging. The fourth is the township and city would likely never see the "promised" tax income. Large corporations are notorious for swindling small towns out of everything.

Listen to your constituents and VOTE NO to prevent any tech centers from invading our community. The risks greatly exceed any rewards they may be feeding you. Don't be the committee that oversees the complete erosion of our community.

Thanks,
Andrew Kimball
1039 E Davis Rd, Howell, MI 48843

Objection to the Proposed Data Center

From LCC [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:17 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good afternoon,

I'm strongly opposed to the data center. I am a lifelong Howell resident and my family is as well. The proposed data center will do so much damage to Howell and Livingston County. I will be in attendance of the public hearing meeting tomorrow evening. I don't know what all is needed to voice my objection but I wanted to send an email noting just that.

All the best and hopes of listening to our communities voices,

Lindsey Hayes
Sent from my iPhone

Concerned Citizen In Opposition to the Howell Data Center Proposal

From Vincent Comis [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:21 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

My name is Kayla Comis and I'm a lifelong resident of Howell. I am writing in opposition to the proposed construction of a massive data center in Livingston county that local legislators are currently seeking approval for. The construction of this data center would have severe negative impacts on the local rural environment and contribute to the degradation of ecological protections. It would require disgustingly massive quantities of precious fresh water that citizens depend upon to live and grow essential crops (data does not hydrate or fill bellies!) on a *daily* basis, the full repercussions of which remain untold and unregulated. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that the construction of the data center could potentially result in higher electric costs for local residents. If this proposal is allowed to proceed, I fear it will only open the floodgates of invasive tech companies to prey upon our beautiful natural landscapes further. I refuse to stand by and allow unchecked corporate greed to irrevocably taint our pristine local environment, and I am calling on our local politicians to help in preserving it for many generations to come. Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and I hope I can look forward to positive change in the near future.

Respectfully,

Kayla Comis

Rezoning Between Howell and Fowlerville

From Bryan Cronkhite [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:22 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I've been living in the Howell area my entire life, close to 4 decades now. I've seen the community go through significant changes. Some good, some not. However, rezoning the agricultural area between Howell and Fowlerville to research and technology would be a catastrophic mistake. No amount of money is worth the possibility of a data center destroying the community. Please reconsider this rezoning.

Thank You,
Bryan Cronkhite

Fowlerville/Howell Data Center

From Kasey McFarland [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:23 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am in opposition to the zoning change to parcels in Fowlerville and Howell Township in order to pave the way for a large scale data center. I am a 32 year resident of Fowlerville, living on Fleming Rd. with my husband and our two sons. We raised our children in Fowlerville, supported the family that owns the parcels in question through prayer, financial support of their grocery stores, feed and grain operation and home décor store. Our children graduated with theirs, played football with theirs, and my husband has done irrigation for them at their personal homes. They have every right to sell their property...as zoned. They have plenty of options for selling their property under the current zone. They may sell for housing development, which would increase property tax and school tax, or for agricultural use. A zoning change is not necessary, and a large scale behemoth that will rape our natural resources, burden the public with infrastructure upgrades, destroy the land and natural environment, reduce property values, and cause untold heart ache and financial burden to residents is not wanted here. The data is in on what these centers really do to their communities and we need only look across the country for verifiable, science driven evidence. Fowlerville will be forever ruined if you allow this, that has been proven across the nation again and again.

Those who purchased land and chose this location to live, pay taxes and raise their families expect that the elected officials who represent us would adhere to the master plan and all zoning decisions as written. I hope that you are honorable men and women, who have the best interested of ALL the people you represent, at heart.

I will be attending the meeting and look forward to the debate and pray for a decision that honors your position and trust, and that you are able to see the long term implications of betraying that trust. History is not kind to those who betray their neighbors and friends. I pray that you are not those people.

Respectfully,

Kassandra McFarland
Certified Trust Officer & Administrative Assistant
Planned Giving and Trust Services
Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
[REDACTED]



Planned Giving & Trust Services

Seventh-day Adventist[®] Church
MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

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Dear Members of the Howell Township Board and Planning Commission,

My name is Marcus Chidester and I am a lifelong Howell resident and recent Northern Michigan University Graduate from the Construction Management program. Additionally, I work for a top 25 General Contractor in the US that is based out of Michigan; I hope to bring the perspective of a citizen as well as a construction professional. When I initially saw the proposal for this project, the first thought that came to my mind was to gather as many *facts* as I could to make an informed decision. What I am voicing in the below points are all *facts* based on my experience and education in the construction industry; I am not here to argue about things I am not truly informed on. So please, review my thoughts from the perspective that you are in this position to represent the people of Howell Twp. and the surrounding area.

Jobs

Undoubtedly, one of the largest “pro’s” of this project is the “thousands” of jobs that it will generate for our community. However as a construction professional, I know that number is incredibly misleading. My employer is actively building a data center in the Philadelphia, PA area and in order to do so, they did not employ “locals” to manage the construction; they brought in “Mission Critical” experts from throughout the country to work on the project. This is not atypical, whether it is Turner, Christman, Barton Malow, Hensel Phelps, or any other large GC, they are essentially importing talent throughout the country for the duration of the project, to simply ship them back out after the completion.

From a trade labor perspective, you are not creating Livingston County jobs by allowing this project to happen. In Michigan’s market, on a project this size, I can say with 90% certainty that this will be a Union built job. Sure, there are union tradespeople living in Howell, but there are no Howell Union “Locals”. This means you will be bringing in workers from Lansing, Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids “Locals” to build this project. Aside from a stop at the gas station and a sandwich from lunch, I do not see how this significantly impacts our local economy in a positive manner. These workers are not buying property in and around our cities, they are simply driving to work, putting in 8-10 hours, and driving right back home. In fact, if I were to ask most of the workers on the jobsite I’m currently on, most would prefer to **not** stay in the town they work in.

At the end of the day, if you *truly* believe that this \$1 Billion+ project is worth 50 full-time jobs then I would love to hear your explanation for that. In reality, if *all* you are looking for is job creation, a Texas Roadhouse would more than double that number.

Data Center Day-to-Day

Having connections to former classmates and colleagues who have previously or are currently working on Data Center construction, I have a few alarming truths about what this complex would bring to our community. We have both seen plenty of numbers thrown around regarding water and power usage, however I am concerned about what the **reality** of this project brings to Howell Township and the surrounding areas. My foremost concern is the noise that will be produced by the data center. In my conversations with a Superintendent(I will keep him anonymous) managing the construction of a data center in Philadelphia, I asked what the realistic noise pollution from this facility would look like and I was told that “anyone within about 3 miles would be able to hear the equipment running, anyone else would be okay.” For reference, 3 miles extends from the project site into downtown Fowlerville and to the Howell Airport. Is this an acceptable compromise for the *hope* of some contribution to the community from the developer. What are the people within those 3 miles supposed to do? Are we expected to simply turn a blind eye and change our lifestyles to accommodate this noise pollution?

Now lets say the noise issue goes away, another set of issues that arise are what this facility would do to the communities utilities. I am aware of the MHOG letter and I'm sure DTE can accommodate the power needs, MHOG even mentions upcoming upgrades to their facilities, but who is funding these upgrades? I know the answer and so do you, it's **the people** of Howell Twp. and the surrounding areas. At that same data center in Philadelphia, significant upgrades were required to the electrical grid and in order to make enough power to operate the data center the local residents' electrical bills were raised 11%. Help me make sense of that. With the expectations of similar upgrades being needed for this proposed project, what will **the people** see? Our capacities are nowhere near those of Philadelphia, PA, so what would our electric and water bills look like? A key issue with that question is that you cannot answer it, not by your own fault, but simply because if you look at other projects throughout the country the same thing pops up everywhere. Why do they do this? Because nobody can stop them. If they raise our bills and taxes, a group of hard working individuals from Livingston County stand no chance against Meta in a Court of Law.

I get that this isn't an academic source, but according to posts by Trustee Bob Wilson, an academic paper written by UM Undergraduate students with the assistance of faculty with Harvard education is simply hearsay. At this point, I do not know what else I can offer you; Harvard education or not, the people that build these facilities know better than any other source you can ask for. I welcome you to reach out to me if you would like to verify the validity of anything I have said.

Conclusion

In closing I would just like to leave you with a couple of statements that should serve as thought provoking and intuitive as to why we **do not** need this in our community. First, our community has proven time after time that they are willing to put their tax dollars forward to benefit the things they care about most. When was the last time a school bond in this area didn't pass? Fowlerville and Howell have both passed school bonds in recent years; those things didn't happen at the hands of a corporation, ***the people*** made it happen. Corporations like Meta don't just land in a town like Howell out of chance. They fish throughout the country to find whoever is willing to bite on their proposal on the promise of a couple bucks. When their proposal gets denied (like Saline), they just move on to the next one until they finally get what they want. In this case, the Van Gilder family are the ones who bit on the opportunity to make their pockets a little fatter based on false promises. So again, before allowing the identity of Howell and Fowlerville to forever be changed by this project, reflect on the people of our community that work hard to make this community so strong; is this truly in their best interest? People have always and will continue to live in Howell and Fowlerville because of the idea of living their lives in a small, safe community; not with the hopes of their everyday lives being impacted by individual wealth and corporate greed. Should you choose to move forward with allowing this project, I encourage you to release a statement to the public stating exactly what this is; a prioritization of industrial development and corporate avarice over the people who elected you to your position.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Marcus Chidester
Concerned Citizen & Construction Professional

Rezoning - Data Center

From Mally B [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:33 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Howdy,
i am not in support of the rezoning that would allow a data center to be build in howell, MI.

Thank you for your time.

Disapprovalment for data centers

From Caitlin Harvey [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:37 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello Inspector,

Or whomever it is I am writing to. I hope you are a real person with real feelings. I am writing on behalf of voicing my thoughts, opinions, facts, and feelings on the matter of data centers. I will say blatantly that I am **STRONGLY AGAINST** putting any data centers in Michigan, let alone our community. It has recently come to my attention that there are plans potentially in the works to build data centers on what is currently farm land, in the Howell and Fowlerville area. I must strongly advise against this!!!! Data centers require **MILLIONS** of gallons of water daily to cool them down. That is straight up highway robbery of our states resources. The water cannot stand up for itself, so I will stand up for it. I will speak on behalf of our great state, that sits on some of the world's biggest reservoir of fresh water. And that is what these companies want. They are trying to come in and steal our resources. **WE MUST PROTECT THEM!!!!** At all costs. We start pumping that much water out of the ground and the town will dry up. My family, who lives not far from the proposed area, lives on a well. That well will dry up. We've seen it before. **NESTLE** came into Michigan, pumps our aquifers dry, and destroys communities and valuable resources. **WE MUST NOT LET THIS HAPPEN.**

We are at a very pivotal moment in history. We must protect the earth, the resources, the water. We must choose the people of the community, over greed and profits. **DATA CENTERS HAVE NO BUSINESS BEING IN MICHIGAN!!!!**

I strongly encourage you to use your heart. And do not let the re-zoning take place.

Thank you for your time,
Caitlin Harvey

Sent from my iPhone

Rezoning - No Data Centers Please

From rachel dzirnis [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:38 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

My husband & I live on Starlite Dr very close to the proposed data center. We purchased our home in 2021 and love the privacy, quiet, country like setting. We are incredibly concerned about the prospect of a data center being nearby. I have seen and heard nightmare stories of residents nearby data centers who have constant light streaming in to their homes, noise, water pressure issues, etc. We love our home and this community. Please consider how the nearby residents and community feel. We vehemently oppose rezoning due to concerns of light pollution, water usage, strain on local utilities, environmental & quality of life concerns.

Rachel Sova
Sent from my iPhone

No AI Data Center in Howell

From Veronica Kerr [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:41 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello, My family has lived and worked in Howell for 50+ years and we love our home. It would be a travesty to ruin Howell's water ecosystem, power grid, and the overall value of living in a community like ours with an AI Data center. Limited job creation, potentially higher energy costs for residents, damaging our ecosystem? It's not worth it. We don't want this data center in our town. Thanks for hearing out the people who live here.

Veronica Kerr | [REDACTED]

Proposed rezoning of agricultural land to commercial/technology use

From M Lang [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:57 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

09/22/2025

Howell Township Zoning Board

3525 Byron Rd

Howell, MI 48843

Dear Howell Township Zoning Board Members,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed rezoning of private/agricultural land to commercial/technology use, specifically concerning the plans to build a data center in Howell Township that includes a small parcel of property located in Handy Township, MI.

My primary concern is the **lack of transparency** surrounding this proposed zoning change. Many residents, including myself, were not informed about the plans to rezone and build the largest data center in our state. The absence of notice regarding such a significant change is troubling and raises questions about the decision-making process. It is essential for residents to be kept informed about developments that could affect the quality of our water, property values, health, wildlife, and overall quality of life.

Furthermore, the shift from agricultural to commercial/technology zoning could have lasting implications for our community. It is vital to consider the residents in this decision-making process and to inform them when a change could have an irreversible impact on our township. While the agricultural land currently serves an important role in maintaining the rural character of the Township, converting it to commercial/technology use for a data center or solar farm would undermine that character. I am not opposed to the sale of the land or the possibility of rezoning it to commercial use, as long as it would benefit the community and does harm the surrounding resources or residents.

Additionally, I have read all the arguments for this data center and found them to be misleading regarding the number of jobs that will be filled once the center is completed. The jobs are typically low-paying, and tech support roles are often handled remotely. The tax breaks appear to benefit corporations more than our community, and Michigan's tax incentives for data centers do not seem to provide significant benefits to our schools.

I urge the Zoning Board to reconsider this proposal and prioritize the interests and concerns of the residents. Transparency and community engagement should be at the forefront of any zoning decisions, especially those that could significantly alter the landscape of our township.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope to see a more open dialogue regarding the future of our community.

Sincerely,

Marcella Lang



Planning Commission zoning change request

From susanschooley [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 2:58 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I am writing to express my views about the proposed zoning change to allow the development of a major datacenter in Howell Township.

I am a resident of Marion Township, but I view this proposal as having a major impact on the entire region, and therefore feel compelled to offer my opinion. The dependence of such a proposal on the MHOG distribution of massive amounts of water depends on the aquifer here in Marion Township and directly impacts the wells on my own property. The reassurances offered by the applicant are contradicted by the wealth of experience in other communities in which such promises and reassurances were later proved wrong. The unused "capacity" should remain for the benefit of our residents, not for profits of the billionaires in the AI industry.

Similarly, evidence regarding "community benefit" from the increased jobs, tax base, etc., all face examples of communities who found such promises did not accrue as planned. Instead, communities describe regret, increased costs, infrastructure demands, health problems (noise, light, traffic, pollution, etc.)

I have reviewed Howell Township's Master Plan. Similar to the Master Plan endorsed in my own township, the plan emphasizes maintaining open spaces, supporting preservation of agricultural land, and the pre-eminence of low density residential spaces. Despite the applicant's language to the contrary, the proposal is absolutely contrary to the goals which your Commission and Board committed to. Your residents and neighbors do not benefit from such a project and stand to be substantially harmed. I can't accept the applicant's assertion that community benefit outweighs the harm to immediate neighbors, and examination of examples in other communities illustrate this over and over again.

Across the United States, and within Michigan, we have lost enormous acreage of productive farmland to the various pressures of development, commercial, industrial, and residential. Livingston County has important contributions to Michigan's agricultural heritage. I point you to The American Farmland Trust for details about these trends in our community. In my own small way, I am trying to preserve the piece of land that is my farm, settled in the mid 1850s and remaining in production to this day. If we don't collectively support keeping agricultural land in production, and resist the industrial development of arable lands, we will be unable to support the needs of our society for food and other agricultural products. We then become dependent on imported goods the quality of which is not under our oversight or control. We cannot let this happen. Howell Township's Master Plan seems to recognize this as a value, and implies the necessity to resist this zoning change in order to support our collective self-sufficiency in the food supply.

Such projects have been undertaken in other communities similar to ours. Please study this matter in detail within those communities. What I see as a consequence of datacenter development in rural areas is the total transformation of communities that bought the promises of the industrial sponsors and later found that they were used, sacrificed, and harmed for profit. Please don't let this happen in our community.

Sincerely,
Susan Schooley, MD
459 E Davis Rd
Howell, Mi

How many data centers will be built?

From Suhail Sayage [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:02 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Someone needs to answer what the full, final build will be. Everyone knows it will not be 1 data center on 1,000 acres.

How many centers will be built?

We are being told it will be the largest complex in the state. How many million gallons of water will be required per day at final build out?

Please be prepared to answer questions at the meeting tomorrow.
MANY people will be looking for answers.

Tracy Sayage

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

FW: NO DATA CENTER!

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:22 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Fulton [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 3:03 PM

To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>

Subject: NO DATA CENTER!

To whom this should be addressed to, to include Treasure and Clerk, I oppose the proposed DATA CENTER. I understand it will bring money into our community to also include our schools, however, the downside is to risky and I do not want it.

Can it be guaranteed our electricity bills and water bills will NOT increase due to the exorbitant needs of electricity and water of this proposed data center?

Not just words but show an iron clad guarantee for this to even be considered, as well as guarantees to the well being of the surrounding environment. As for now I would like to show my position as a hard NO.

Thank you,

Kevin Fulton
Handy Township, MI
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Opposition of Howell Data Center

From Autumn M.S. [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:07 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.

Once operational, data centers like this offer very little in terms of full-time positions. This will not lead to any substantial increase in job opportunities for our community. The little jobs the data center does bring will be hired out to high tech specialists that will most likely commute in from out of the township.

The revenue promised is also misleading as many large facilities like this receive tax abatements, leading to families in this community left to shoulder the burden of these costs.

Nothing is holding them to the promises they make you.

Sincerely,
Autumn

Comments for Public Hearing to Amend Article 23 - Zoning Ordinance and Map

From Carrie K [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:08 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Greetings,

I live at 1400 W Marr Rd and I'm writing to voice my **strong opposition** for the rezoning of the land listed as Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT). Rezoning this land would go against the vision and goals of the 2023 Howell Township Master Plan. According to the Master Plan, "the preservation of open space and community character is of primary importance to the quality of life in Howell Township" and "88% of survey respondents indicated that the preservation of farmland and providing support for agricultural use was important or very important." The Future Land Use map in the Master Plan identifies the land in question as Agricultural Preservation, highlighting the importance of this tract of land. The planning commission should consider whether this rezoning supports the master plan for the township and the vision supported by its residents.

Furthermore, there has been a lack of sufficient information available on the intent of this rezoning. If a data center is to be the planned use for this land, I strongly urge the planning commission to consider the negative impacts of a data center. Data centers are well known to have a significant environmental impact, locally and globally. Data centers require incredible amounts of water for cooling, significantly impacting on our local water resources. A data center directly opposes one of the goals of the Master Plan which is to "Protect and preserve the quality of our water resources". The massive amount of water required would impact local wildlife and the wells of residents. Data centers also require diesel generators to operate during power shortages; these generators would be loud and create poor air quality for the local residents.

Data centers also draw large amounts of electricity, putting strain on the power grid. Howell Township already experiences many power outages throughout the year, and I cannot imagine a data center using large amounts of electricity would make that better. If a data center was to be constructed, significant investments in energy infrastructure would be required to ensure residents were not impacted by the power requirements of a data center. However, there has been no information provided about infrastructure improvements or plans to mitigate potential issues.

A data center may generate short term jobs during construction; however, it is more likely that outside contractors would be used. And the long-term impact of job creation is minimal as these data centers require very few employees to operate.

A major reason we chose to live in Howell Township is because it is rural and we would like it to stay that way. The rezoning of this land violates the master plan and is a step towards deteriorating Howell Township as a rural community. I hope the planning commission and township board will uphold the vision for the township and represent the residents accordingly.

Kindly,

Carrie Baker

1400 W Marr Rd

--

Carrie Baker



Howell Data Center Opposition

From Summer McLane-Svoboda [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:11 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.

Once operational, data centers like this offer very little in terms of full-time positions. This will not lead to any substantial increase in job opportunities for our community. The little jobs the data center does bring will be hired out to high tech specialists that will most likely commute in from out of the township.

The revenue promised is also misleading as many large facilities like this receive tax abatements, leading to families in this community left to shoulder the burden of these costs.

Nothing is holding them to the promises they make you.

Sincerely,
Summer McLane-Svoboda

September 22nd, 2025

Dear Members of the Howell Township Board and Planning Commission,

My name is Stephanie Nalepa-Hudge, an (almost) lifelong resident of Howell Township and current resident of Handy Township, living less than one mile from the proposed rezoning site. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of approximately 1,300 acres from Agricultural Preservation to Research and Technology for the development of a data processing facility.

Most importantly, this proposal directly contradicts Howell Township's Master Land Use Plan, which prioritizes "preserving existing natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas" through strategies such as protecting "wetlands, woodlands, and scenic vistas, and to get environmentally sensitive areas into permanent preservation" (Howell Township Recreation Plan, Chapter 2, p. 14). In contrast, the developer has claimed the project will "preserve the local character" and be buffered from view, despite admitting the size will be comparable to a Meijer supercenter (Stuart, 2025). The sheer scale makes such assurances implausible in the open agricultural landscape.

Beyond conflicts with the Master Plan, I—and many fellow residents—have significant concerns including, but not limited to transparency and pollution:

1. **Transparency:** Residents only recently learned of this proposal through limited local reporting (Stuart, 2025) and word of mouth. No clear plan has been presented, the purchasing company remains unnamed—described only as a "Fortune 100 technology firm" (Stuart, 2025)—and the long-term use of the additional rezoned acreage remains unexplained. Even Howell Township's water director, Greg Tatara, has stated there is not enough information to know whether current facilities could support the demand of such a center (Stuart, 2025).
2. **Pollution and Nuisance:** Typical sound levels in data centers average 80–90 dB(A), and can reach 96 dB(A)—levels comparable to concerts or music festivals (Tozzi, 2023; Sinclair, 2002). For residents living within close proximity, this would not be an occasional disturbance, but a constant 24/7 noise source. Such impacts clearly fall within the scope of Howell Township's Public Nuisance Ordinance No. 123, which prohibits actions that "annoy, injure, or endanger the safety, health, convenience, comfort, repose or other aspects of the public welfare" (Howell Township, 2001).

On a final, yet personal note, I grew up in Howell Township and this area has been close to my heart. When I think of my childhood, I am warmed by memories of natural forests, nearby fields, and agricultural surroundings. This is why, when my husband and I first began dating, I moved from Grand Rapids' inner city back to the City of Howell. I wanted our future family's quality of life to reflect the same rural values I experienced. My husband, who also grew up in an agricultural area near Ann Arbor, shared this vision. Shortly before our marriage in 2022, we moved to Fowlerville (Handy Township), hoping to provide our future children and our two dogs with land, natural resources, and a peaceful agricultural environment. We believed our dream was coming true as we now expect our first child in April 2026. However, we are gravely concerned that this data center will compromise the environment and quality of life we

envisioned. This is not the quiet rural living we anticipated when choosing to grow our family here and I am quite positive that this is a concern that many of those in our community share with us.

Given the lack of transparency, inconsistency with township preservation goals, and potential long-term harm to residents and infrastructure, I respectfully urge the Board and Planning Commission to reject this rezoning request.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Nalepa-Hudge

References

- Alpine Hearing Protection. (n.d.). How loud are festivals and when is it harmful?.<https://www.alpinehearingprotection.com/blogs/party-music/hearing-protection-at-festivals-and-concerts>
- Howell Township. (2001, April 17). HOWELL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE. Howell, MI. [pdf].
- Stuart, M. (2025, September 19). *Howell Township could be home to Michigan's largest data center*. The [LivingstonPost.com](https://thelivingstonpost.com/howell-township-could-be-home-to-michigans-largest-data-center/#google_vignette).https://thelivingstonpost.com/howell-township-could-be-home-to-michigans-largest-data-center/#google_vignette
- Tozzi, C. (2025, January 2). Why Data Centers are loud, and how to quiet them down. Why Data Centers Are Loud, and How to Quiet Them Down.
<https://www.datacenterknowledge.com/sustainability/why-data-centers-are-loud-and-how-to-quiet-them-down>

Fwd: Data Center

From Howell Township Supervisor <supervisor@howelltownshipmi.org>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:17 PM

To Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: CHERYL WALSH [REDACTED]

Date: September 22, 2025 at 3:10:01 PM EDT

To: Howell Township Supervisor <supervisor@howelltownshipmi.org>

Subject: Data Center

This is
Cheryl Walsh at 3697 Warner Rd. I would like to register my opposition to the proposed data center
in Howell Township.

Regards,
Cheryl Walsh

data center

From Laurie Goethe [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:19 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hi,

My family and I oppose the data center rezoning proposal. We moved here years ago because we loved this area because of all the open lands, safe place to raise a family, farm space and just being in a low-key area where there is a balance with nature and the ecosystem which was beautiful but it slowly being ruined in Howell and is rather disappointing with a race track and housing for the rich which doesn't symbolize Howell and all the other proposed building and now the data center you are taking what was a balance with nature and turning that to just another overcrowded area with too much traffic etc for what more tax dollars is that worth the price when you have countless natural disasters because man tries to turn God's creation into dollars signs? Do you realize how much energy and water these data centers use? How will you get the water will you be restricting farmers landowners etc to restrict their use to get enough water for these data centers? Will you also be cutting our electricity usage with rolling backouts to keep up with their demand? I think it's high time we wake up to the fact of the matter and how much resources these data center requires and that the reality is that someone will be having restricted water and power usage and I'm going to guess it will be along the same lines as what has happened in other states on the west coast. It will always be the people that are negatively affected. You promise things like bringing in jobs but that is short term there won't be much need after the centers are operational. Please put the interest of the people long term in the forefront of this matter. We should be using this land as it was intended for food to feed people that is the real need here as there is food shortages and high food prices plus this land could never be farmed again nor could any of the farmland already being used for solar energy so how is that truly helping mankind? Human life, and the ecosystem balance must and should always come before the race for artificial intelligence. I urge you to see what is really happening here and all over the USA and seek the delicate balance as were meant to as stewards of the land.

Sincerely,

Laurie

Opposing Data Center

From Michael Schartzer [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:20 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.

Once operational, data centers like this offer very little in terms of full-time positions. This will not lead to any substantial increase in job opportunities for our community. The little jobs the data center does bring will be hired out to high tech specialists that will most likely commute in from out of the township.

The revenue promised is also misleading as many large facilities like this receive tax abatements, leading to families in this community left to shoulder the burden of these costs.

Nothing is holding them to the promises they make you.

Sincerely,

Michael Schartzer

(No subject)

From Catie Osburn [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:28 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rezoning Request for the data center project. Although due to work schedules we are not able to attend the meeting, outlined below are the reasons we are concerned and are opposed to this project.

I do believe this project will negatively impact our community without offering commensurate benefits. The assertion that data centers bring improvements is, in my opinion unsubstantiated. Instead, I foresee several significant drawbacks, most notably the exacerbation of already rising energy costs in Southeast Michigan. The recent grid improvements, implemented without sufficient community input, have already led to increased expenses for residents, and this data center project would undoubtedly further strain our resources and increase our collective energy burden.

It is imperative that projects of this magnitude receive thorough, transparent, and community-driven evaluation before proceeding, and I believe this has not been the case.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of approving this rezoning request. The short-term economic gains are far outweighed by the potential for negative environmental impact, increased energy costs, and the lack of demonstrable benefit to our community.

Sincerely,
The Slaga Family

Stantec Consulting Michigan Rezoning from AR to RT

From**Date** Mon 9/22/2025 3:28 PM**To** Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>**Opposition to Rezoning of 1100+ Acres in Howell Township**

Dear Members of Howell Township Board and Planning Commission,

My name is Lynn Romain, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of over 1,100 acres from Agriculture Preservation to Research and Technology for the development of a data processing facility.

Concerns Regarding the Rezoning Proposal**Lack of Information and Transparency**

One of my primary concerns about the rezoning application is the insufficient information and lack of transparency surrounding such a momentous change to Howell Township's current and future Master Plan. I am disappointed that a majority of the information I have received has come from Facebook posts rather than from official township communication. As a resident living within a mile of the proposed rezoning area, I am troubled by the limited time and information available to research and review all comments related to this proposed change. This lack of clear, accessible information makes it difficult for affected community members to fully understand the implications and participate meaningfully in the decision-making process. I propose a moratorium for at least 30 days to gather pertinent information. For example, I understand that people visited a data center site in Ohio. I would like to know why this site was chosen. What were their findings? Did they meet with any community members living around the center?

Noise Pollution

I am particularly worried about the potential for noise pollution, specifically the constant hum of equipment that would be associated with a data processing facility. This type of noise could travel great distances and be heard from miles away, disrupting the peace and quiet that our community currently enjoys.

Environmental Impact

I am deeply concerned about the substantial energy and water consumption required for data centers. Based on my research, mainly conducted through internet searches, I have learned that facilities of this nature use

considerable resources to operate. The ongoing demand for electricity and water to support data processing operations could result in significant consequences for our local environment and the broader community.

Property Values

Furthermore, I am concerned about the potential negative effects on property values in our neighborhood. The development of a data processing facility will increase traffic congestion, elevate levels of noise and light pollution, and reduce our overall quality of life. These factors are likely to make our area less desirable to both current and future residents. Not only would these changes affect the peaceful character of our community, but they may also have lasting financial implications for families who have invested in their homes here.

Strain on Local Services and Resources

In addition to these concerns, I worry about the long-term effects of such an intensive project on our local community and resources. The influx of construction workers will place additional pressure on local services, including schools, emergency response, and road maintenance, potentially straining our limited resources. The increased population during the project's duration will lead to housing shortages and inflated rental prices, affecting both current residents and newcomers. Collectively, these issues highlight the need for a thorough impact study and active communication with residents before any decisions are made regarding this significant rezoning proposal. Today, many of our community members live paycheck to paycheck and I feel the added stress of this development financially and emotionally will negatively impact on our community.

Finally, I encourage you to do the right thing and reject this rezoning application for the good of the community that you represent.

Sincerely,
Lynn Romain
5182 Owosso Rd.

Opposition to Proposed Data Center in Howell Township

From Kari Knight [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:32 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

 1 attachment (83 KB)

industrialproptaxabatempa198.pdf;

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed data center development in Howell Township.

1. Tax Breaks and Lost Revenue

While such projects are often presented as economic development opportunities, the reality is that our community will not see the promised benefits due to the significant tax breaks these facilities receive. A bipartisan Michigan law already grants major incentives to data centers. In 2024, legislation was passed exempting these companies from paying sales and use taxes on equipment and other infrastructure investments. On top of that, Industrial Property Tax Abatements under Public Act 198 of 1974 (see attached PDF) allow local governments to cut property taxes by up to 50% for 12 years, with additional exemptions available for equipment, improvements, and speculative buildings. This means that all while the data center is consuming enormous amounts of land, water, and electricity, our community will shoulder the burden without receiving a fair share of tax revenue in return. Instead of contributing to schools, roads, and essential services, the company will benefit from layered tax breaks that shift costs onto residents and small businesses. I urge you to carefully weigh whether granting these incentives truly serves the long-term interests of Howell Township. A project that avoids paying its fair share in taxes cannot be considered genuine economic development.

Source: <https://senatedems.com/hertel/2024/05/09/job-creation/#:~:text=To%20help%20Michigan%20better%20attract%20these%20economic,primarily%20as%20a%20power%20plant%20for%20electricity>.

Source: See attached PDF

2. Power and Influence:

I am deeply concerned about the level of influence one corporation could hold over Howell Township if the proposed data center project moves forward. In the developer's own materials, they claim the facility would generate more tax revenue than the entirety of Livingston County combined. While this may sound impressive, it terrifies me. Such financial dominance by a single company poses a direct threat to the balance of power in our community. How can I trust that

my one voice, one vote, and my neighbors' opinions will matter the same when weighed against the influence of a corporation that contributes more revenue than all other taxpayers combined? Once Howell Township becomes reliant on this company's dollars, every future decision; from zoning and infrastructure to schools and public services; risks being made with the company's approval as the first priority, rather than the needs of residents. Local government is supposed to serve the people, not a single business. Allowing one corporation to become more powerful than the collective community undermines the principles of fairness and democracy that Howell Township should stand for. I urge you to consider the dangerous precedent this project would set and to prioritize the long-term independence and integrity of our township over short-term revenue promises.

3. Water Impacts:

Huge quantities of water required for cooling: According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), large data centers may use up to 5 million gallons of water per day for cooling, equivalent to the consumption of a town of 10,000–50,000 people. Even “medium-sized” centers may consume over 100 million gallons per year just for cooling.

Source: [Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#)

- **Direct impacts on communities in less obvious ways:** A University of Tulsa piece describes how many centers rely on potable (drinking) water for cooling, and in some cases, thousands of households or farms are affected. There are also instances where water usage is tied to well water depletion, reduced water pressure, sediment buildup, and other serious harms to local water supplies.
- Source: [The University of Tulsa+1](#)
- **The connection with artificial intelligence, rising power & cooling demands:** As AI and high-performance computing grow, they require denser server arrays, more powerful chips, and greater cooling infrastructure. These demands drive up electricity usage *and* water usage simultaneously. Many new data centers are being built in locations chosen for cheap electricity—even if water is scarcer. Evaporative or water-intensive cooling techniques are frequently relied upon, particularly in climates or seasons where temperatures or humidity make cooling more challenging.
- Source: [And the West+1](#)
- **Evidence of harm in real communities:** The New York Times recently reported on a Meta data center in Newton County, Georgia, that uses roughly 500,000 gallons of water per day—about 10% of that county's total daily water usage. Neighboring households reported that after construction began, their wells have run dry at times, water pressure dropped, and the supply was so compromised that they've had to replace equipment and rely on bottled water.
- Source: [SFist+1](#)
- Source: [PPC Land](#)

• 4. Counterpoints to Township's Rezoning Justification (Page 25, “Data Processing”)

The township's effort to rezone this project site to “Research and Technology” is being framed as if this facility were a simple, low-impact data center. However, the very language in the

developer's own application contradicts this narrative.

On page 44 of the 120 page packet available on your website, under the section on "**Data Processing**," the applicant lists an extensive array of materials and resources needed to operate the facility. This goes far beyond what the public might imagine when they hear the term "data center." The listed requirements highlight heavy industrial needs, including construction materials, specialized equipment, and infrastructure demands that align much more closely with **industrial-scale development** than with light "research and technology" uses.

This discrepancy raises several serious concerns:

1. **Industrial in Nature, Not Research and Technology:** The presence of large-scale material requirements, continuous cooling infrastructure, power supply reinforcements, and other industrial inputs is clear evidence that the operation is industrial in scale. Simply labeling it "research and technology" does not change the reality of the impacts.
2. **Zoning Misclassification Risks:** By forcing this project into a "Research and Technology" category, the township risks undermining the integrity of its own zoning system. Residents expect zoning to reflect real-world impacts. If a facility with obvious industrial demands can be shoehorned into "research and technology," then zoning protections for neighborhoods and the environment lose credibility.
3. **Precedent for Future Industrial Projects:** If approved, this rezoning sets a dangerous precedent. Other developers will point to this case and argue that their industrial projects should also qualify under "Research and Technology." Howell Township could open the floodgates for inappropriate, large-scale industrial uses in zones never meant to accommodate them.
4. **Public Trust and Transparency:** The mismatch between the township's framing ("just a data center") and the developer's own words (acknowledging the industrial nature of the inputs and operations) erodes public trust. If the township is willing to stretch definitions to approve this project, residents have no reason to believe future zoning decisions will be handled honestly or with community protection in mind.
5. **In summary:** What is being presented as a "simple data center" is, in reality, an **industrial facility** requiring extensive infrastructure, resources, and material inputs. The township's attempt to rezone to "Research and Technology" is misleading and undermines both zoning integrity and public trust. If this project is industrial in nature, it should be treated, reviewed, and regulated as industrial — not disguised under a lighter classification to ease approval.

5. Do Not Vote on Sept 23rd 2025 for the sake that Howell Township could Experience Extensive legal Action:

Availability of the materials for review is explicitly required by statute for the notice to be valid

- Statutory Language: Under MCL 125.3401(9)(d) (Michigan Zoning Enabling Act): The notice of ordinance adoption shall include: "The place where and time when a copy of the ordinance or amendment may be purchased or inspected."
- This means:
 - The notice must tell the public where and when they can review or obtain the ordinance or amendment.

- If the text is not yet available for inspection at the time of notice, the notice is arguably defective because it cannot truthfully state where and when the text can be reviewed.

Implication:

- If the municipality issues a notice without making the proposed text available for review, it likely violates MCL 125.3401(9)(d).
- Courts have held that strict compliance with notice requirements is mandatory. In *Montrief v. Macon Twp. Bd. of Trustees* (2023), the Court of Appeals invalidated a zoning amendment for failure to comply with statutory notice provisions, reinforcing that procedural defects can void an ordinance.

Practical Effect

- A notice that says “materials available for review” but does not actually make them available could be challenged as misleading and noncompliant.
- A notice that omits any reference to availability is facially defective under the statute.
- **Howell Township did not have the packet available until September 18th, 2025. This means you have opened up this township to not only face legal action if you vote yes from the people, but also if you vote no from the land owners/ investors. While this letter is in opposition to the data center wholeheartedly. I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE A NO VOTE ON SEPT 23rd TO AVOID ANY AND ALL LEGAL ACTION THAT COULD COST US THOUSANDS IF NOT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.**

6 . Better Alternatives for the Community

Instead of rezoning this property for an industrial-scale data center, Howell Township could use this land in ways that genuinely enrich our community. A multi-use recreational facility, such as: a dog park, disc golf course, pickleball courts, or softball and baseball complex. These would provide healthy outlets for families, youth, and seniors, while preserving the rural and small-town feel that defines Howell. Parks and recreation facilities generate modest but reliable revenue through concessions, tournaments, and events, while ensuring the land remains open, welcoming, and beneficial to everyone. Unlike a data center, which isolates resources for private profit, a recreation complex would build community pride, improve quality of life, and strengthen Howell Township’s identity for generations.

In summary:

The tax incentives strip away the very revenues that could offset the community costs of hosting a data center. We should not give away long-term tax revenue, land, and natural resources for a project that provides minimal jobs, risks environmental strain, and undermines the financial well-being of our township. Instead, Howell Township should invest in land uses that benefit residents directly, protect our rural character, and provide sustainable community value.

I respectfully urge you to reject this project and instead pursue development opportunities that put people and community first.

Thank you,

Kari Ryan

Data Center Rezoning

From John Belcher - [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:39 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this email to express my concern over the potential rezoning of the Van Gilder Farm and other parcels to Research and Technology with the intent to sell to a data center developer.

There are a number of concerns with these type of developments as I am sure you are aware (water, power, noise, e-waste, etc) so I just want to focus on water and some of the communications that I have received through my various community roles.

One stakeholder approached me requesting support and told me that they plan to get their water from the City of Howell. A different, and much larger, stakeholder mentioned that they're going to talk to the Village of Fowlerville about their water. I do not believe that either of those entities have the ability to supply the amount of water that these data centers use each and every day. Additionally, both of those municipalities utilize wells drawing from the same groundwater aquifers as local residences and farms. So whether the water is directly taken out of the ground below the property, or from the surrounding areas, it will have a significant negative impact on the local water supply.

Additionally, when considering the overall approach of this development, if something is truly a good idea and a value to the community it doesn't usually require the developer to provide pre-written talking points, "sales pitches" focusing nearly entirely on the financial benefits to entice municipalities and government agencies to fill out pre-drafted support letters, or utilize NDA's to protect their reputations just to convince people that it's a good idea.

It is clear from comments made by multiple stakeholders, including Mr. Van Gilder in his media interview, that the land owners intend to no longer farm that land one way or another. And it is not my intention for you to tell them that they cannot sell their families land, but why do they get to permanently alter the community they are choosing to leave.

Please remember that the majority of the people who live in this area, whether they grew up here or moved here, did so because they love this community and its agricultural history.

Thank you for your consideration,
John Belcher
Fowlerville/Handy Resident

Data Center rezoning concern

From Bryce Anderson [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:39 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I have recently heard about the request to rezone an area of land between Howell and Fowlerville for industrial use. The proposal seeks to build a new data center, and there is much speculation that the intended use case will be for the purpose of training Artificial Intelligence (AI) models.

I am someone who works in the Information Technology space, and the training and usage of AI models is well known to require a very significant amount of both electrical power and water for cooling. Further, there is much literature online to corroborate:

According to Forbes:

"... AI's projected water usage could hit 6.6 billion m³ by 2027, signaling a need to tackle its water footprint."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cindygordon/2024/02/25/ai-is-accelerating-the-loss-of-our-scarcest-natural-resource-water/>

According to MIT:

"The energy resources required to power this artificial-intelligence revolution are staggering, and the world's biggest tech companies have made it a top priority to harness ever more of that energy, aiming to reshape our energy grids in the process."

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2025/05/20/1116327/ai-energy-usage-climate-footprint-big-tech/>

Also from MIT:

"The computational power required to train generative AI models that often have billions of parameters, such as OpenAI's GPT-4, can demand a staggering amount of electricity, which leads to increased carbon dioxide emissions and pressures on the electric grid."

<https://news.mit.edu/2025/explained-generative-ai-environmental-impact-0117>

As a resident of Howell, this plan and speculation both concerns and troubles me. I would like to know:

- 1) Is the speculation around usage of the data center for AI accurate?
 - 2) If so, is there a plan in place to mitigate the increased water and power drain on the community?
 - 3) If so, will the cost of the increased burden be offset by the operators or owners of the data center?
- Or will this burden fall to the taxpayers?

Until I know the answers to the above questions I will oppose this proposal and strongly urge you to do the same.

Bryce Anderson
Howell Resident

RE: Livingston county data center

From McLane, Annette [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:42 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear members of the planning committee,

As a long-term resident of Livingston county (30+ years), I'd like to express my concern about the proposed data center in Howell Township, close to Fowlerville. I currently live in the area of Owosso Rd. and Chase Lake Rd. and I am very concerned about the impact of this data center on our water supply. From what I have read, the data center will consume a very large amount of water that will be pulled from our local aquifer. This will impact the wells in the surrounding area and at my home. I also have extended family who live in this area and depend on the aquifer for our drinking water. In addition, I believe the discharge of the used water will have a detrimental impact on our local area. I would think that a better location for the data center is an area where there is an abundance of water to be used.

Both Howell and Fowlerville already have multiple designated industrial and commercial areas in Livingston County. If the data center is to be located in Livingston County, it should be placed in an area that is already zoned for this use.

I am very much opposed to the data center being built in the proposed area.

Annette McLane
[REDACTED]

data center

From Lynette England [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:52 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I am not in support of the data center being located on property that is currently zoned agricultural.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

Dear Planning Commission Members;

This correspondence is in regards to a proposal to change the zoning of the property near Owosso and Marr roads from Agricultural Residential Preservation, to Research Tech.

I believe this request should be denied in the strongest terms, and for several reasons. This development is being proposed by basically one major property owner, who stands to make a fortune off the sale of the property. The property owner and developer are promising the moon, in return for the stroke off a pen. However, as someone who's challenged industrial wind and solar development in rural residential and agricultural neighborhoods, the township and its residents are often left holding the bag.

The developer says the data centers won't emit appreciable noise or create water scarcity issues. I urge you to search the internet and YouTube, to confirm their assertions. You will see the damage these developments are causing, up close and personal.

For brevities sake, I won't delve into the property taxes and school funding, that is promised, but doesn't seem to materialize, or the fact that water has become undrinkable in several instances.

Ask yourself these simple questions. Was it Meta that sought out your township, or was it a representative of the largest land owner, reaching out to anyone who would listen, in order to cash in? Will you let a large landowner change the quaint, country feel of your township,

by opening Pandora's Box, to any and all industrial developers? Your decision has the power to completely change the makeup of this area. Please do the due diligence necessary, for a decision of this magnitude.

Sincerely,
Richard Allen
Perry, MI

Data Center - Rezoning

From Matthew Svoboda [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:58 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.

Once operational, data centers like this offer very little in terms of full-time positions. This will not lead to any substantial increase in job opportunities for our community. The little jobs the data center does bring will be hired out to high tech specialists that will most likely commute in from out of the township.

The revenue promised is also misleading as many large facilities like this receive tax abatements, leading to families in this community left to shoulder the burden of these costs.

Nothing is holding them to the promises they make you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Svoboda



Data Center

From Kallena Rea [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 3:58 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

September 22, 2025

Dear City of Howell Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning from Agricultural/Residential to Research and Technology of the large parcels between Howell and Fowlerville. I am a concerned resident of Fowlerville and believe that this development would have significant negative impacts in and around our community, environment, resources, and overall quality of life.

Many of us came to this rural area and built homes and decided to raise our families in cities like Fowlerville and Howell with intentions of small-town feel. The farmland attracted so many growing families to the community based on the farmland being designated for Agricultural/Residential. Why can we not keep it that way? Van Gilder's have a right to sell their land; however, it should be developed based on what it is zoned for. I would much rather see the large parcel stay as farmland, but if that is not possible then develop the land as designated and make it residential. A data center is not wanted by the community.

I understand that Data Centers say they can generate significant property revenue which can fund public education and emergency services. However, Governor Whitmer signed legislation (Senate Bill 237 / House Bill 4906) to provide sales and use tax exemptions for qualified data centers in the state of Michigan. This law would extend tax breaks through 2050. With this Bill being passed how can this be good for our community?

The claim that the data center will provide well-paying jobs for local residents is misleading. While it's true that construction will create some high-paying jobs, these positions are temporary and only last for the duration of the building phase. Once the data center is operational, the number of long-term jobs will be minimal, mostly consisting of janitorial and security roles, which are often outsourced. Although these jobs are important, they do not match the high salaries that have been promoted.

I moved to this area and decided to raise my family here because I loved the community and its agriculture history. Please do not take away and change the landscape of our beautiful community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kallena Rea

Fowlerville/Handy Resident

Public statement

From jeannie matovski [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:02 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

My name is Jeannie Matovski. I'm a lifelong resident of Howell (born here in 1983) and an elementary school teacher. I love this town, its history, and its people. I am strongly opposed to the proposed data center development that would convert over 1,000 acres of farmland into industrial use. I believe it poses serious, measurable risks to our water supply, environment, and quality of life.

Water Supply & Environmental Risks

1. High water demand for cooling

- Data centers require large amounts of water to cool servers. Some large "hyperscale" data centers use **hundreds of thousands of gallons per day** simply for cooling. [Department of Engineering Science+3Dgtl Infra+3Environmental and Energy Study Institute+3](#)
- To illustrate, just one medium-to-large data center might use **5 million gallons of water per day** — roughly equivalent to the water use of a town of 10,000–50,000 people. [Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#)

2. Strain on local water resources

- Howell and the surrounding area depend on groundwater, local wells, and surface water (streams, rivers) for drinking water, irrigation, and daily use. Large withdrawals by a data center could reduce water levels, lower pressure in wells, and lead to water shortages, especially during dry spells.
- If water is drawn from the same aquifers we use, there is a risk of overuse, which could lead to drop in water tables, contamination risk, or wells going dry for residential properties.

3. Loss of water filtration and recharge

- Farmland, soil, wetland patches, and natural vegetation help with water infiltration when it rains. They allow rainwater to soak into the ground, replenish groundwater, and naturally filter pollutants. Removing 1,000+ acres of farmland means increasing impervious surfaces (roofs, paving, parking lots) which sharply reduce infiltration, increase runoff, and reduce recharge.
- Reduced infiltration also means runoff carries more sediment, nutrients (nitrates, phosphorus), agricultural chemicals into streams and lakes, degrading water quality. Michigan studies show that wetlands and conservation practices on farmland significantly

reduce nutrient load and improve water quality. [Ag & Natural Resources College+2](#)[Ag & Natural Resources College+2](#)

4. Impact on storms, floods & drought resilience

- Natural farmland and wetlands moderate water flows during heavy rainfall. They absorb and slow down stormwater, preventing flash flooding. If large tracts are converted to industrial use, stormwater runoff will increase, flood risk could rise downstream, and soil erosion could worsen. [Ag & Natural Resources College+1](#)
- Conversely, during dry periods or droughts (which are expected to become more frequent with climate change), the lack of natural recharge will make water scarcity worse.

Community & Health Impacts

- If water tables drop, residents may face higher costs digging deeper wells or treating water to make it safe.
- Water quality degradation might lead to algal blooms, unsafe drinking water, or harm to local fisheries or recreation (rivers, lakes).
- Increased costs for water utility systems (more pumping, treatment).

Conclusion

Howell is not just a place on a map—it is home. We depend on healthy land and reliable water to raise our children, farm our fields, maintain our natural beauty, and keep our community safe and sustainable. A project of this scale threatens those things.

I urge you to consider these data-driven risks carefully, demand full environmental impact assessments (especially hydrological ones), and protect our farmland, water, and way of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FW: Data Center opposition

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:20 PM

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



From: Tamra Kay [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:04 PM
To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>
Cc: jasonwoolford@house.mi.gov
Subject: Data Center opposition

September 22, 2025

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Howell township, I strongly oppose the building of the Data Center. My concerns include houses nearby losing water pressure, sediment increasing in water pipes, depletion of groundwater supply, an increase in air pollution, and noise pollution risks to the community. The building of this center poses not only risk to our environment, but also poses physical risks to the people living in our community.

Data Centers water cooling centers have been shown to emit electromagnetic fields (EMFs) which have been classified as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Long term exposure to low-frequency noises can include cognitive impairment, sleep disturbances, stress, anxiety, and an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. We live five miles from this site. What are the long-term risks to my children? What developmental effects have the potential to occur? Who is going to be responsible for ensuring the safety of our community?

If the Data Center was truly in our well-being, the facts related to the cost, demand, and upkeep would have been brought to our attention sooner. It would appear that the want for building this Data Center trumps the well-being of Howell Township citizens. Please deny the

building of this Data Center. Think about the future of our families and of our children. We want Howell to be a prosperous community, that means we all have to think of the well-being of our community.

Best,
Tamra Kay

Opposition to Rezoning Agricultural Land for Proposed Data Center

From Joy Dettling [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:05 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Inspector,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to rezone agricultural land in Howell to allow for the development of a data center.

One of the greatest treasures of our community is its beautiful farmland and open rural character. These landscapes are not only a vital part of Howell's heritage but also one of the main reasons many of us choose to live here. The proximity to major metropolitan areas makes our rural environment even more unique, offering a natural balance between city access and countryside living. Protecting this farmland is essential to preserving the charm and identity of our area.

I am also deeply concerned about the environmental and community impacts of a data center in this location. Data centers are known for their heavy consumption of electricity and water. Such demands could put unnecessary strain on our local resources, especially at a time when sustainable management of both is becoming increasingly important. In addition, the presence of large industrial infrastructure in a rural, residential area carries risks of lowering property values and disrupting the character of neighborhoods nearby.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to preserve the agricultural zoning designation and prevent industrial development from overtaking the farmland that defines our community. Howell has the opportunity to protect its unique rural environment for future generations rather than sacrificing it for projects that would be better suited to designated industrial or commercial zones.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joy Dettling
2516 Curdy Rd, Howell, Mi 48855
[REDACTED]

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

Zoning change

From Mike Weiss [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:21 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear HowellTownship,

I am writing this letter to inform you We are very much against the zoning change for the data center.This is for many reasons.It goes against your very own master plan to begin with.

It is terrible for the environment,uses millions of gallons of water, and tons of electricity. We already struggle with outages now. Light, air, water, and noise pollution are all noted in many studies.

Unfortunately increasing energy prices and damage to wells and related plumbing and appliances.

This is a serious threat to our home values and quality of life.

Please do not change the zoning and hurt the many to benefit a greedy company and a few landowners.

Sincerely,

Michael and Lynn Weiss

Sent from my iPhone

Project Splitrock, the proposed data processing facility in Howell Township.

From Randall Green [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:23 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Howell township I believe the largest rezoning of property in Howell township should be reviewed further with input from the community, this rezoning has the potential to completely change the character of the township. Without a discussion from the community and more time I'm against the rezoning.

Thank you for your consideration, Randall Green

Concerned with Rezoning for Data Center

From Adam Coon [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:39 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello my name is Adam Coon. I grew up in Fowlerville and regularly come back to the Fowlerville/Howell area for athletic activities including running wrestling clinics. I regularly come back to help out the local businesses and to check in with how everyone is doing.

I do find it concerning when I heard about the request to rezone farmland into industrial land for use of a AI Data Center. Simply the change of removing the area of much needed farmland that seems to be disappearing country wide is not a good idea. Replacing it with a energy and resource sucking business is even more alarming. There are numerous instances of these data center destroying the wildlife and surrounding area as well as hurting local families by making their water unusable or removing it all together. These corporations will claim they are unrelated yet multiple instances say otherwise.

In regards to creating jobs, only for construction phase and I worry they will hire outside labor they can get cheaply and on their payroll for corner cutting. After that construction phase, many of these families are dark meaning only needing a couple custodians and maybe security. Again, I worry even those jobs won't be local. I think the job argument is simply to help move it along but has no base.

This corporation is said to bring in lots of tax money, after all the tax incentives by Lansing I fear its not as much as it should be. Also are we really going to put a price on the local people of the area because they are the ones being harmed, and they will be harmed by putting this data center in.

Lastly, I've heard rumor it was a Meta Data Center (AKA facebook) I cannot confirm this. If this is the case I'd be very wary working with any corporations that got off the ground by stabbing their closest allies in the back. That is the story of Facebooks founding. What do you think they would do to a bunch of people in a small farming community they dont care about.

To wrap up, I believe the rezoning is a bad idea and will only harm the very people you are trying to help. Please don't buy into company greed and be a leader for your people of Fowlerville/Howell.

Thank you for your time and I'll be in the area again soon. I hope you have a great meeting and the people of the area are heard.

Thank you,

Adam

Data Center

From Jody Leveille [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:43 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I'm writing this to oppose having the Data Center in our county.

If you ever watched Dances with Wolves where Kevin Costner wanted a leave to another post out west, and was asked why, he wants to see it before it's gone

Please keep the tranquility that Howell is known for.

URGENT ZONING ISSUE

From Max Glover [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:44 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

This is in regards to File# PC2025-21 and File# PC2025-20. I would like to go on record as being opposed to this rezoning request.

I AM OPPOSED TO REZONING THE AREAS FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

I am against any project moving forward that increases pollution, noise, utility costs, damages the environment or lowers home values in the community. I am against Data Centers or any other high energy consumption project, high pollution project or projects that utilize hazardous materials being built in the local community.

Thanks,
Max Glover

Data Center Rezoning

From Denie Perkola [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:46 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

September 22, 2025

Howell Township Board & Planning Commission
3525 Byron Rd.
Howell, MI 48855

RE: Proposed Rezoning for Data Center

Dear Members of the Board and Planning Commission,

As residents of Howell Township, we strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of the agricultural land. For the reasons below:

- 1. The proposal goes against the Howell Township's Master Plan.** Residents like us move to Howell for the rural atmosphere with the understanding it will remain. We appreciate that landowners have the right to sell their property, but it should be within the confines of the Master Plan. If it cannot remain in use for agriculture, we would prefer to see it used for lower cost (starter houses) for young families.
- 2. Environmental impact, loss of wildlife, and harm to humans.** Not only will this push out wildlife, but it will affect our night sky with light pollution along with noise pollution. Air pollution generated by data centers has also been linked to serious health risks to humans such as asthma, heart attacks, cognitive decline, and premature death. A 2025 study estimates that air pollution from US data centers caused \$6 billion in public health damages in 2023, with projections reaching \$10 billion to \$20 billion annually by 2030. An executive order from the Biden administration explicitly acknowledges the public health risks, requiring new data centers to be in areas where air quality meets national standards and cancer risk from pollution is at or below the national average. This alone seems to reason enough to not allow the requested rezoning.
- 3. Enormous amounts of water usage and potential for contamination.** Wastewater and heated discharge are a threat to aquatic life. Also, there is credible reporting by local governments and environmental groups warning Michigan to fully consider whether aquifers or water utilities can support data center's 1- 5 million gallons/day. Howell's existing water/wastewater infrastructure shows capacity of 1.8 MGD. Also, the claim that the data center will not affect local wells has not been proven. Depending on how much water it draws, how close wells are to water tables used, the geology, rate of recharge, etc., it could affect local wells. Local documents show the township is working on wellhead protection rules, which is a sign this is a recognized risk.

4. **Energy demand and grid pressure.** We already face loss of electricity with frequent outages in Howell Township. Data centers require a massive amount of electricity which will strain our already outdated grid while increasing the demand. Rising demand without increased supply will certainly impact the cost of electricity. Evidence shows that large electric loads can place strain on the systems, which sometimes causes higher costs either via upgrades or passing costs to ratepayers.

5. **Reduced property values** to surrounding neighbors due to the above-mentioned items. Also, a data center would not bring the proposed tax base nor the new jobs. The data center is getting tax incentives which is why they are looking to build here. The permanent new jobs projected is approximately fifty. Not near enough return on investment for 1,300 acres. The skilled jobs will not likely go to local Howell residents either.

We respectfully request the Board and Planning Commission deny the rezoning request and protect our community.

Sincerely,

Matt & Denie Perkola
3460 Mason Rd.
Howell, MI 48843

Public Hearing 9/23/25: Opposition to Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment PC2025-21 - Research & Technology Rezoning

From Lauren Prebenda [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:49 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

From:
Lauren Prebenda
930 Gulley Rd
Howell, MI 48843

To:
Zoning Administrator/Howell Township Planning Commission
RE: Stantec Consulting MI, Inc. & Randee LLC, Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, PC2025-21, for a text amendment to Article 2 - Definitions, regarding Article 5 - Research and Technology (RT) Zoning District

September 22, 2025 3:30PM

Dear Howell Township Planning Commission/Zoning Administrator,

I am writing not only to express my personal opposition to the proposed rezoning request of the 19 parcels east of Handy Township along Marr, Fleming, Warner, and Owosso Roads for a data center, I am also writing to share with you the significant community opposition as evident in the more than 1,300 resident petition signatures gathered in less than 72 hours via an online petition.

As of 4:00 PM this Tuesday, September 22, there are 1,338 petition signatures opposing this rezoning request, with more than 82% verified residents of Howell or Fowlerville, both communities that the proposed rezoning will significantly impact. You can access the online petition to review the number of verified signatures and relative locations via this link: <https://chnng.it/2YCyPRhqt>.

In addition to the incredible lack of transparency around this proposal, from the withholding of the identity of the corporation to the vague, unsubstantiated claims outlined by the applicant in the packet memorandum, the proposed rezoning raises many concerns for me and other residents:

1. **Exorbitant Water Usage:** Fresh, potable water is a finite resource on a human time scale that can be depleted much faster than it is replenished. Aquifers that fill over thousands of years can be emptied within a single lifetime. Data centers use water on an unimaginable scale (up to 5 MGD) that

is not sustainable for the long term. If residents don't have a sustainable water source for generations to come, then we have nothing - a couple hundred jobs or a potential increase in tax dollars won't matter. You can't drink tax dollars.

2. Pollution and Health Concerns: Massive amounts of fossil fuels will be burned to sustain this data center, resulting in CO2 emissions that will harm local residents and our children. There are more than 5 schools within a 5-mile radius of the parcels and more than triple that number within 10 miles of the site. Data centers also generate tons of e-waste and if not disposed of properly, toxic chemicals can end up in the environment and in our water supply. These concerns are not illegitimate, as we've already seen other corporations pillaging Michigan's natural resources (e.g. Nestle bottling and selling billions of gallons of our ground water for free) and poisoning our environment (Tribar Manufacturing dumping 10,000 gallons of hexavalent chromium into the sewer and thereby, the Huron River system).

3. Increased Costs for Residents: There is mounting evidence that the massive amounts of electricity used by data centers result in increased energy bills for residents. According to Wood Mackenzie, a data and analytics firm, at least 20 proposed or effective electricity rates for data centers across 16 states are not sufficient to cover power costs. Another independent analyst, Monitoring Analytics, found that 70% of the increased electricity costs nationally last year were the result of data center demand. (AP News, Aug 2025)

For these reasons and many more, residents are strongly opposed to the rezoning of these parcels and do not want a data center built in our beautiful, rural community. If we amend the ordinance text to include research and technology rezoning, this could open the door for many other data center proposals that will forever change Howell and surrounding areas. We have the opportunity to choose who decides the fate of our community - a mega corporation that refuses to disclose its identity - or those who live here, work here, raise their families here, and love Howell.

I urge you to consider the generational impact of this rezoning request on our community and our children. **On behalf of myself and the more than 1,300 others who spoke up to make their voice heard via this petition, I urge you to deny this rezoning application and instead choose the health of our neighbors and children, our clean air and water, and our way of life over their empty promises.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lauren Prebenda

No data centers in Howell

From Jeffrey Olson [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:53 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing this email to address the many concerns I have for myself, my family, along with my surrounding friends, family, & neighbors.

I bought my house in 2013 in a secluded, quiet, affordable, subdivision just off hogback road with intentions of being here long term to raise kids & have a family. I currently have a family with kids now & want to raise them in our quiet little subdivision that has little to no noise pollution, no traffic, & is surrounded by wildlife. I want to keep it that way & with the proposal of this data center, it will change our way of life drastically.

The negative impact far outweighs the positive impact a data center can bring to this area. I'm an avid outdoorsman, sport enthusiast, hunter & wildlife conservationist. I want to raise my kids the same way & teach them the importance of conservation & taking care of the wildlife around us. It won't be possible with the drastic changes that would take place after the install of this data center.

This project will deplete water aquifers, wetlands, waterways, change natural waterways, not to mention the removal of natural vegetation, wildlife habitats, to the fragmentation and destruction of whole ecosystems. I certainly don't want to have to worry about fresh water supply for my family or the animals we keep on our property now or never.

The noise pollution will drastically affect owls, bats, birds, bees, & much more wildlife & their way of life & survival. Not only that, but it will create a constant humming and frequency distraction that will be heard by my children and family permanently until we are forced to move. The dirty energy and electro magnetic frequency (EMF) given off by data centers are known to cause people & or wildlife to fall sick because it is literally changing the vibration / frequency in our body. I take serious measures to avoid EMF exposure to myself & my family to protect our health.

I'm also concerned about the increased energy usage & higher rates passed down to small Consumers. Another negative impact to my family on top of the noise, emf & water pollution.

As a father, outdoorsman, & concerned citizen of Fowlerville & Howell areas I can't stand silent on this matter & will do everything in my power to make sure this data center never sees the light of day.

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Data Center Project

From Chuck Smith [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:55 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Howell Township Inspector I and Jonathan Hohenstein Howell Township Zoning Administrator,

In regards to the following notice of Public Hearing.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

HOWELL TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

3525 BYRON RD. HOWELL, MI 48855 517-546-2817

The Howell Township Planning Commission will be holding the following Public Hearing at the

Howell Township Hall: 3525 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48855 on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to consider the following request:

PETITIONER: Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc., File# PC2025-20, 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, (full legal descriptions available upon request.)

ARTICLE 23 – Amending the Zoning Ordinance and Map,

REQUEST: To rezone property from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT)

The Public is invited to submit written comments on the proposed request to the Zoning Administrator at

inspector@howelltownshipmi.org or at Howell Township Hall, 3525 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48855 any time

prior to 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, September 22, 2025.**

Jonathan Hohenstein
Howell Township Zoning Administrator

I was just advised of this proposal on the evening of Saturday, 9/20/25, (just 2 days ago this past weekend), for the Conditional rezoning request from Stantec Consulting Michigan and Randee LLC that includes numerous parcels comprising more than 1,000 acres, which I have been told is actually closer to 1,300 Acres, along Marr, Fleming, Warner and Owosso roads, by 2 of my neighbors while standing by the road talking about the Luke Bryan Concert that was about to take place at this same Van Guilder property in question.

Please note that I am 69 years old and have lived approximately ½ Mile North of the corner of Fleming Rd and Marr Rd. for over 20 years.

That corner of Fleming Rd and Marr Rd. intersection is located at the North East Corner of this Proposed Development and **it is literally 2500 feet from My Front Door.**

Therefore, it will directly affect me and my neighbors on Fleming and Marr Roads more than anyone else in the entire Township in regards to the Proximity of said Rezoning and Development and will result in a definite interruption of our daily way of life.

In addition, the fact that we knew more about the upcoming Luke Bryan Concert that took place on that same piece of property than this **Proposed “Billion Dollar Project”** that will be Located there is both very troubling and extremely up-setting, especially when I just found out about tomorrow’s 6:30 pm meeting while at work at this morning.

Please note that my wife and I plan to attend this Howell Township Planning Commission meeting and I would like the opportunity to express my questions comments and concerns regarding same and have you answer each of them so I can determine if the benefits to the community they should be presenting to us outweigh the cost of our quiet farmland community immediately adjacent to that location.

In addition, I don’t think it would be too much to ask that all residents within a 5-mile radius of that property should be able to expect hard copies of a written notice and full explanation of the “Packet” mailed to each of us detailing what all is to be presented at least 2 weeks in advance of a meeting of this type, especially with so much riding on it.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you have at least 2 additional meetings, after said written and mailed notice has been sent out to the local residents.

so that we could do more investigation and research into what all is involved with a Project this big before you decide to **“greenlight a project worth millions in tax dollars” (as noted in the Livingston Post.com)** right next to our homes.

“The Howell Township Planning Commission is expected to consider a rezoning request Tuesday, Sept. 23, that could greenlight a project worth millions in tax dollars —

The conditional rezoning request from Stantec Consulting Michigan and Randee LLC includes numerous parcels comprising more than 1,000 acres along Marr, Fleming, Warner and Owosso roads, according to the meeting packet.

I have the following Questions, Comments and Concerns that need to be addressed and I am sure I will have more after hearing the answers to these.

What exactly are the “hundreds of high-paying permanent jobs.” I was told it would be closer to 50.

For its size, the data center project won’t generate a lot of traffic; it will, however, demand a lot of water and electricity.

I was told and have read there were estimates that it could use up to 4.5 Million Gallons of Water to cool the Data Systems.

“The applicant also intends to implement water efficient and sustainability practices, including recycling water through cooling systems before discharge,”

(Where will the Water be Discharged to and what will be in that water being discharged?) landscaping with native vegetation to reduce irrigation needs, and capturing rainwater on-site.

I have read that the enormous amount of Electricity used could be in excess of 30 times more than is used in the entire township.

Is that an accurate estimate or will it be more and if so, where do they plan on getting it?

In keeping with local concerns about large-scale solar or wind energy projects, developers are also committed to keeping both off the site...

I would think that Roof Top Solar that covers much less Land area and Roof Top Wind energy projects could help offset at least some of the

extreme costs for the exorbitant amount of Electricity needed to power all of the computers that will be running to collect the Data.

I have more to say about this situation, but I am limited to what is written here both due to 5:00 pm time constraints noted in your Meeting Notice

The amount of time I have at work.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Chuck Smith

5136 Fleming Rd
Fowlerville, MI 48836



Data center

From karrissagogs@gmail.com [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:56 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing this email to address the many concerns I have for myself, my family, along with my surrounding friends, family, & neighbors.

I bought my house in 2013 in a secluded, quiet, affordable, subdivision just off hogback road with intentions of being here long term to raise kids & have a family. I currently have a family with kids now & want to raise them in our quiet little subdivision that has little to no noise pollution, no traffic, & is surrounded by wildlife. I want to keep it that way & with the proposal of this data center, it will change our way of life drastically.

The negative impact far outweighs the positive impact a data center can bring to this area. I'm an avid outdoorsman, sport enthusiast, hunter & wildlife conservationist. I want to raise my kids the same way & teach them the importance of conservation & taking care of the wildlife around us. It won't be possible with the drastic changes that would take place after the install of this data center.

This project will deplete water aquifers, wetlands, waterways, change natural waterways, not to mention the removal of natural vegetation, wildlife habitats, to the fragmentation and destruction of whole ecosystems. I certainly don't want to have to worry about fresh water supply for my family or the animals we keep on our property now or never.

The noise pollution will drastically affect owls, bats, birds, bees, & much more wildlife & their way of life & survival. Not only that, but it will create a constant humming and frequency distraction that will be heard by my children and family permanently until we are forced to move. The dirty energy and electro magnetic frequency (EMF) given off by data centers are known to cause people & or wildlife to fall sick because it is literally changing the vibration / frequency in our body. I take serious measures to avoid EMF exposure to myself & my family to protect our health.

I'm also concerned about the increased energy usage & higher rates passed down to small Consumers. Another negative impact to my family on top of the noise, emf & water pollution.

As a mother, outdoorsman, & concerned citizen of Fowlerville & Howell areas I can't stand silent on this matter & will do everything in my power to make sure this data center never sees the light of day.

Thank you for your time.

Karrissa

Monday 5pm for Public Hearing comments

From Anne Elise Patterson [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 4:59 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

NOTICE TO TRUSTEES AND PLANNING ADMINISTRATION

Please accept this email as my formal public comment for all three petitions scheduled for the September 23, 2025 Planning Commission hearing: PC2025-19 (rezoning RSC to Industrial), PC2025-20 (rezoning AR to RT for a proposed data processing facility), and PC2025-21 (text amendment to Article 5 – RT Zoning definitions). My comments are intended to apply to each of these related zoning amendments

Howell Township Public Hearing – September 23, 2025

Good evening. I am a beneficiary in this community and respectfully submit this Notice to Trustees summarizing the Township's own Master and Recreation Plans and reminding trustees of their oath-bound duties. I offer this in peace to help the planning commission honor the public trust.

By oath of office, sworn to uphold the Constitution of Michigan and the United States, each officer has accepted the position of trustee. ***That oath is itself a trust instrument***, regardless of declared emergencies. In law and equity, public office is a public trust; the beneficiaries are the people, and the res of the trust is the land, wildlife, water, and community placed in your care.

Anderson's Dictionary of Law tells us that *for purposes of inheriting or receiving a beneficial interest, life begins with conception*.

In the same way, the people of Livingston County carries a beneficial interest in this land and in this decision. From the moment each of us chose to dwell here, to raise families here, to make our abode here, and to invest our life's energy here, that beneficial interest was conceived and accepted. **And in trust law, acceptance need not be formal — the Restatement (Second) of Trusts, §36, affirms that acceptance may be shown by conduct. By our very presence, by our use and enjoyment of this community, we have lawfully vested ourselves as beneficiaries of the res.**

We came because your own plans, your own websites, and your own promises spoke of rural character, natural resources, wildlife, and farmland preservation. That is the life of this community. It has already begun. It is living, vested with the life-source energy of its people, and it is entrusted to you as trustees. To turn from those promises now is to disregard the beneficiaries' accepted life interest, conceived in trust and poured into this community.

The Township's own Master Plan and Recreation Plan are published trust instruments.

Key Citations from the Master & Recreation Plans

- *"Maintaining the rural character of the community is considered critical by residents and Township leaders alike."*
- *"Goal: Encourage the use of open space in all developments for a useful purpose and preserve or conserve natural open space, including wetlands, woodlands and flood plains."*

- *“Goal: Preserving existing natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas. Strategy: Protect wetlands, woodlands, and scenic vistas. Get environmentally sensitive areas into permanent preservation.”*
- *“Public survey: 91% of residents indicated that protection of natural resources was important or very important.”*
- *Chapter 7: “Open space and scenic beauty are among the greatest assets in Howell Township. The protection of open space and natural resources will help to maintain the quality of life...”*
- *Chapter 8: “The success of this Master Plan depends upon citizen understanding and participation in land use, zoning, and development decisions.”*
- *Chapter 8: “Implementation will require active involvement of Township officials, residents, and the private sector working together to uphold the vision of the Plan.”*

Future Land Use & Beneficiaries’ Enjoyment

The Howell Township Master Plan itself defines the **res of this trust**: the farmland, open space, and rural character that make this community what it is. Its *Future Land Use Strategy* declares that land use decisions must preserve farmland, open space, and most importantly the community’s **quality of life and character**. This is recognition that the beneficiaries — the people of this Township — hold the right of enjoyment in the land, not merely the private owners seeking profit from sale.

The Plan further designates **Recreation and Preservation Areas**, with the express purpose of maintaining open space, protecting wetlands, woodlands, and groundwater recharge, and providing trails, parks, and play areas for the public. These are not commodities for speculation — they are **assets of the trust estate**, dedicated to the beneficiaries’ use and enjoyment.

And in **Chapter 8 – Implementation**, the Plan reminds trustees that *its success depends upon citizen understanding and participation in land use, zoning, and development decisions*. That is written notice that beneficiaries must be included before the res can be altered. Any rezoning that disregards their voice is a breach of both the Plan and the public trust it embodies.

We recognize and respect the right of private landowners to sell their land. Yet the sale at issue here is not a simple transfer within its intended use as farmland. It seeks to transform the land from agricultural preservation into industrial exploitation. That change of use alters the very res of the trust — and for that reason the beneficiaries’ voices must now be heard. Even though the farmer owns it, the *use* is limited because the community — as beneficiaries — has an equitable interest in how land use affects natural resources, rural character, water, traffic, wildlife, etc.

As Lewin on Trusts makes plain: a trustee *“cannot place his own interest, or that of third parties, in conflict with his duty to the beneficiaries.”*

That is the line trustees here must walk. The trust res has been named. The beneficiaries’ will has been declared. To rezone against these principles is to abandon the trust and forsake the oath.

This truth is echoed in scripture. Christ said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And they straightway left their nets and followed him (Matthew 4:19–20). The call required them to leave behind their nets — their livelihood and attachments — to answer a higher duty. Trustees of this Township are under the same call: to leave behind the nets of corporate persuasion or individual gain and follow the higher duty owed to the beneficiaries.

A trustee may not serve two masters. By your oath and by the plans you adopted, you are bound to one: the people and the land of this Township. Any act contrary is breach of trust, for which trustees bear liability.

This reminder is given in peace: protect the farmland, protect the wildlife, and protect the res entrusted to you.

To the beneficiaries — you are heard, you are seen, and you are acknowledged. Your presence, your voice, and your life’s energy have already vested your beneficial interest in this land.

To the landowner — we honor your right to sell, but the proposed change of use does not align with the Master Plan or the will of the beneficiaries. Your stewardship until now has been part of the life of this community, and that is respected.

To the trustees — we appreciate your sacred service. Yours is not an easy office, but it is an office of trust. Tonight is an opportunity to show that fidelity to the oath still carries weight, and that loyalty to the beneficiaries remains your guiding star.

And to the corporation — we acknowledge you only as a *thing*, an outsider to the trust relationship. You are not a living soul, you do not dwell here, you do not walk these fields, you do not raise children here, nor do you breathe the air we breathe. Whatever profit you may seek, it cannot override the equitable use of the land, or the Master Plan, or the will of the beneficiaries. Those living interests supersede any corporate claim.

Let us all, then, remain in peace. Let us choose what preserves life, what honors promises, and what strengthens trust.

Exhibition

Master Plan vs. Data Center Rezoning Proposal Conflicts

Master Plan Says	Proposal Does
Agricultural Preservation areas are intended to remain rural, preserving farmland and community character.	Converts over 1,000 acres of farmland to RT zoning, eliminating designated Agricultural Preservation land
Low-density residential areas should support suburban-style housing with compatible uses.	Introduces an industrial-scale data facility with substations, generators, and security fencing directly next to single-family and low-density residential parcels
Preserve farmland soils and agricultural operations.	Consolidates farmland into a technology/industrial complex , ending farming on the parcels.
Protect natural resources, drainage systems, and rural landscape.	Development spans land with Handy Howell Drain No. 1 ; proposal gives only general water-efficiency promises, no clear plan to preserve or protect natural drainage
Growth strategy should be “focused” along Grand River, M-59, I-96, and airport corridors.	While adjacent to Grand River/I-96, the scale (1,077 acres) pushes far beyond a focused corridor buffer and into core agricultural land.

The Howell Township Master Plan is clear that Agricultural Preservation areas are to remain rural and farmland protected, while low-density residential should be kept compatible with neighborhoods. This proposal does the opposite — it converts over a thousand acres of farmland into an industrial-scale data center, places substations and generators alongside homes, and stretches well beyond the focused growth corridor the Plan envisioned near Grand River and I-96. In short, it conflicts with the Master Plan's core principles of farmland preservation, neighborhood compatibility, and natural resource protection.

:Anne-Elise:, .Patterson

c/o 1789 South Hughes Road

Brighton, Michigan [48114]

Public Hearing Response

From Tim & Erin Shields - [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 5:00 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it May Concern:

My husband, Tim, and I very recently learned about potential plans to build an AI data center in Howell and the pending proposal to change the zoning on several parcels in Howell Township from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT) to accommodate this future project. We are alarmed and concerned about this pending change.

Having only recently moved to the surrounding area, we are still learning how to find information like this about pending changes, and we were first notified through a community group on Facebook just a few days ago. However, it does sound to me like one of the concerns other citizens have is that there has not been sufficient notice to the community given the size and potential impact of a project like this, and there has also been limited information provided about the project in terms of its impact to the community. My husband and I echo these thoughts based on the very limited information we were able to find on such short notice.

While we are technically residents of Putnam Township and do not have a vote in Howell, we do believe that this project could potentially impact us in a large way, as Howell is only a few minutes down the road. If I were to vote on this issue, my vote today would be to deny the zoning change request and ask that the Township not move forward until a full report showing the expected net benefit of an AI data center to the Township has been made available to the public for review. In such a report, I would want to see the following information:

- total net acres to be consumed by the project
- total expected living-wage jobs that will be produced by the data center
- the source of water to be used for cooling at the facility (natural origin plus how much will be recycled versus drawn on a daily basis)
- the source of electricity to be used for operating the facility (whether from the power grid alone or if on-site nuclear power or other sources of energy would be used)
- a measure of noise pollution that could be produced by the facility
- the amount of revenue generated per year by Howell Township as a result of permitting and tax revenue from this project AND how that revenue will be used by the township to benefit the surrounding community.

I believe that the township owes an explanation of the above details to the community before any action is taken to change the property zoning, especially when changing the zoning of such a large area of land would potentially pigeon-hole the township for future development, should the final project not be approved. What other projects would potentially be approved in its place on a large area of property zoned Research and Technology, should the AI data center not come to fruition?

What is the outlook on Howell being able to market to other businesses in the industry in order to fill land with the changed zoning? Could the township be better benefitted by welcoming businesses from other industries?

As new property owners in Livingston County, our primary private concerns with this project are:

- **How will it affect our property value in the long-term?**
 - Will there be plenty of good jobs in the area for potential buyers of our home in the future?
 - Will the town of Howell become an eyesore or a source of noise pollution, making it an unfavorable place to live, shop, work, or go to school?
- **Will our electricity remain affordable?**
 - I understand that DTE raised its rates significantly this past spring. Already, we are paying the highest electric bill we have every paid in our middle-aged adult lives, and with costs rising everywhere, we want to protect what limited disposable income we have left.
- **Will nuclear reactors be added within a "danger zone" area of our home?**
 - This was something we considered when purchasing a home in southeast Michigan. We are strongly against living within an hour of any sort of nuclear reactors due to the potential threat to health and life in an emergency situation, and I hope that Howell will not make us regret our decision to move right down the road.

We have read that the plans for this project include buildings that will blend with the surrounding environment and landscaping that is aesthetically pleasing. We also understand, although we do not know the exact amount, that a project of this size would bring considerable revenue to Howell Township. We are not above understanding that there are potential benefits to the project and potential solutions to some of the concerns listed above. However, we are generally opposed to AI data centers because they tend not to bring significant employment, tend to use a lot of valuable resources, and generally do not benefit the immediate communities in which they are located. In our opinion, this project is likely better suited for a very rural area that has limited potential for other future development. We will leave it to the township and its citizens to hopefully move forward thoughtfully and not make any decisions that our community will regret for years to come.

Thank you for your time.

Erin (and Tim) Shields
Pinckney, Putnam Township



FW: Rezoning from Agriculture and Residential to Research and Technology - NO!!

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Mon 9/22/2025 5:00 PM
To: Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:57 PM
To: inspector@howelltownship.org
Subject: Rezoning from Agriculture and Residential to Research and Technology - NO!!

Hello –

We want to express our opposition on rezoning the Howell/Fowlerville lots from AR to RT.

Howell does not need, and likely cannot currently support, large Data centers that drain electricity and water currently distributed to existing homes and businesses. Data centers are a continual source of noise and Howell already has a number of businesses/trains that create noise pollution. Noise pollution drives down home values (which will lower the property taxes collected), and creates a reputation of an undesirable area. Howell does not need to have any negativity associated with it. Please utilize common sense reasoning to stop this rezoning!

Diane and Ken McCaffrey
Howell Residents

NO DATA CENTER

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 6:12 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Howell Twp Planning Commission,
We urge you to vote down this application for rezoning to research and technology.
The Master plan is very clear now and into the future...Preserve agricultural land and residential.
Approving this zoning change to allow a data center is very short sighted. Short term gain with major long lasting destruction to our water, electricity grid, air quality, property values, health and the personal enjoyment of our properties.
They will make promises that they will not keep, not be able to keep. Howell Twp and Livingston County will be the losers and tech will walk away with billions.
The giant tech companies are much more powerful than our townships or county.
Once they get their foot in the door, they can do whatever they want. They have the money and power to run right over us when we have any concerns or problems we have with them.
This will be a life destroyer for our county.
VOTE THIS DOWN!

Alfred Wilder
Deborah Beattie
Howell, Mi 48843

FW: Data Center Rezoning Land

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 7:29 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



From: Francis Morrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:21 AM
To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>
Subject: Data Center Rezoning Land

Good morning,

How do I go about expressing my opposition to rezoning the Van Guilder farm land? I'm unable to attend the hearing on this but I am strongly opposed along with my family who have been here for multiple generations.

Thank you,
Francis

Data center

From Mark Lang [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 6:41 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I hope you don't vote this in. There has not been enough information given to the public to understand how this can effect our community . Money isn't the most important thing in this community.

Mark Lang

Opposition to Rezoning for Data Centers

From Rebecca Sadowski [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 6:59 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Howell Township Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of large parcels between Howell and Fowlerville from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research & Technology (RT). While I understand the need for growth and development, allowing data centers and similar industrial uses "by right" would be harmful to our community for several important reasons:

1. Water Usage

Data centers consume millions of gallons of water daily. This would put an enormous strain on our local water resources, affecting residents, farmers, and small businesses who depend on them.

2. Power Demands & Costs

The electrical grid would require major upgrades to accommodate such facilities. It is unclear who would bear these costs, and I fear that taxpayers and residents could ultimately be left responsible.

3. Noise & Traffic

24/7 humming, generator noise, and increased truck traffic would disrupt the quiet, rural character of our community. This would negatively impact quality of life for residents who value peace, safety, and open space.

4. Irreversible Land Use Changes

Once farmland is rezoned and converted to industrial use, it cannot easily be restored. This threatens the agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle that define Howell Township and make it a special place to live and raise families.

5. Lack of Transparency

No detailed plans have been shared publicly. Residents deserve clarity and transparency before any decision of this magnitude is made.

Our township has always taken pride in its farmland, community spirit, and country way of life. In fact, events like the recent Luke Bryan concert on local farmland show how these lands can be celebrated and preserved while still contributing economically to our town. Transforming this same land into industrial sites would permanently damage what makes Howell unique.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject this rezoning request. Please protect our farmland, our natural resources, and our community's way of life.

God bless.

Sincerely,
Rebecca & Jake Lalain

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



OPERATING ENGINEERS 324

Douglas W. Stockwell - Business Manager

September 19, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Operating Engineers 324 offers our support for the rezoning request necessary to advance the proposed data center project in Howell Township.

Operating Engineers 324 represents over 15,000 heavy equipment operators, technicians, and stationary engineers statewide, and we are proud to operate our flagship Construction Career Center right here in Howell. This 560-acre campus—recently expanded with a \$24 million indoor training arena—has become a national model for apprenticeship and workforce training, preparing more than 500 active apprentices and thousands of journeypersons each year.

The proximity of this project to our training center highlights a unique strength in Livingston County: a highly skilled workforce, trained locally and ready to meet the demands of complex, modern infrastructure projects. Union labor has consistently delivered safe, professional, and timely results on projects of every scale, and it is our understanding that the intention for this project will be to utilize these skilled professionals.

We strongly encourage your support of this rezoning. Other states and regions are already leading the way in developing data centers, and Michigan must seize this opportunity to stake its claim. With the workforce, training capacity, and commitment to excellence already in place, Howell Township is well positioned to ensure our region is not left behind in this critical area of growth.

Sincerely,

Heath Salisbury
Training Director
Operating Engineers 324

Michael Aaron
President

Alex Zurek
Secretary-Treasurer

Brent Pilarski
Business Manager

Michigan Laborers' District Council **LiUNA!**

Board Members:

Nick DeFauw

Joel Archibald

Dan Minton

Geno Alessandrini, Jr.

1118 Centennial Way, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48917-9280

Phone (517) 321-2349 • Fax (517) 321-3266

www.mi-laborers.org

Feel the Power

To: inspector@howelltownshipmi.org

September 19, 2025

Dear Members of the Howell Planning Commission,

As representatives of the Michigan Laborers in Howell Township/ Livingston County, we are proud to support the rezoning request for the proposed data center project in Howell Township. This project is more than just a building—it's a chance to invest in our community's future.

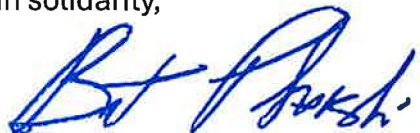
Our members live and work here. We raise our families here. And we believe this project will bring meaningful benefits to our neighborhoods—good-paying jobs, new infrastructure, and a stronger local economy. We're excited about the opportunity to put our members to work on a project that reflects the values of quality, safety, and sustainability.

We recognize the critical role this project will play in advancing our region's economic competitiveness. Data infrastructure is the backbone of the modern economy, and this project positions our region as a hub for future innovation and investment. The construction and ongoing operations will create high-quality jobs, many of which will be filled by our local union members who are trained, certified, and ready to deliver.

We look forward to working closely with the project team to ensure that local labor is prioritized and that the economic benefits are shared broadly across our community.

We respectfully ask for your support in approving the rezoning so that this project can move forward and bring lasting benefits to our community.

In solidarity,



Brent Pilarski, Business Manager

Michigan Laborers District Council

FW: Protest Data Center

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 7:37 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

-----Original Message-----

From: Sandy Mitter <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 7:32 AM

To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>

Subject: Protest Data Center

Data Center is not what is best for Howell and our residents.

Keep Data Center out
Sandy
Sent from my iPhone

NO DATA CENTER

From dean honkala <[REDACTED]>
Date Mon 9/22/2025 7:37 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Keep DATA CENTERS out of Livingston county, plenty of empty space to build them in Detroit, once you take farm land for industrial use, you can't put it back
Sent from my iPhone

Re: Rezoning concern Howell Township

From Phillips, Amanda [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 7:48 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good morning,

I wanted to ensure your office received my email last week.

Thank you,
Amanda

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From: Phillips, Amanda [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:00:32 AM
To: inspector@howelltownshipmi.org <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>
Subject: Rezoning concern Howell Township

Good morning,

I am writing as I recently became aware of the request to rezone the corner of Owosso/Grand River/Marr/Fleming road area from agriculture to research.

I have lived in Fowlerville off Owosso road since 2002/2003. I do not support this change. The purpose of living in this area is for its agriculture atmosphere, less pollution and beautiful scenery.

This is just as terrible as the solar farm requests and is quick lining of a small group of people's pockets. It does not support or benefit the Fowlerville/Howell community. I have concern over the water quality and pollution this may cause.

Please do not allow this zoning change to occur.
The community needs to remain as is, which is why I live here.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amanda Phillips-Heinrich

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Submitting letter for Rezoning hearing on September 23, 2025

From Patricia Murphy [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 8:08 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Attached is my letter
Patricia Murphy Howell resident
September 21, 2025

RE: rezoning Howell Township land from farm/residential to research&technology

The proposed rezoning public hearing to be held Sept 23, 2025 was not properly nor adequately published and did not adequately inform all affected residents and community. All residents whose water sources and wells that will be affected have not been adequately notified.

It is a known fact that such huge data centers draw enormous amount of precious clean water from the same aquifers that residents rely on.

Has a complete up to date study been done by an unbiased research institute and available for public review re the water resources that will be used? As well as the effect on the renewal of the aquifer(s)?

Once our water sources are lowered and our wells run dry it will be far far too late. We the residents and community demand adequate notice be given to all affected residents including those whose wells use the same water source. We also demand a thorough, independent study be completed by Howell Township and presented to the public before any action is taken on this rezoning request.

Sincerely,
Patricia J. Murphy
139 Lakeshore Vista
Howell 48843

10 paragraphs

Concern Regarding Proposed Data Center at Grand River and Fleming Road

From Ansley Moffatt [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 8:53 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Howell Township Board / Planning Commission / Inspector,

I am writing as a former 20-year resident of Howell to share my opposition to the proposed data center project at Grand River and Fleming Road. While I understand that development decisions are made within the jurisdiction of Howell Township, this project would have effects that extend beyond township borders and impact neighboring communities like one my family still resides in and the family under my roof visits often.

My concerns include:

- **Traffic and Safety:** Increased traffic and heavy truck use will not stop at township lines and will place additional strain on regional roads and infrastructure.
- **Environmental and Resource Strain:** Data centers consume significant amounts of energy and water, which could have consequences for surrounding areas, not just Howell Township.
- **Regional Character:** Large-scale industrial development in this location would disrupt the broader rural and residential character of our region and set a precedent for similar projects in surrounding communities.

I respectfully urge the Board to consider the voices of neighboring residents as well as township citizens when making this decision. The impacts of a project of this size will not be contained within Howell Township, and I believe it is in the best interest of the wider community to vote against the proposed data center.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the community.

Sincerely,
Ansley Moffatt

[REDACTED]

No to Data Center

From Morgan Marie Kimball [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 8:58 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Howell Township Planning Commission,

As a concerned resident, I urge you to vote NO on the proposed rezoning for a massive data center on over 1,000 acres along Marr, Fleming, Warner, and Owosso Roads. This project threatens our agricultural community's environment, resources, and finances. Below are some examples:

Environmental Harm: Data centers emit over 105 million tons of CO2 globally each year, and with Michigan's 56% fossil fuel-based electricity, this facility will worsen air quality and climate change. It will destroy prime farmland—Michigan's \$104 billion ag industry—and disrupt wildlife, as seen in protests over a similar project in Saline Township.

Water Drain: Data centers use millions of gallons daily for cooling. In Virginia, centers consumed 1.85 billion gallons in 2022, straining local water supplies. Howell's farms and households can't compete with this demand, risking our groundwater.

Electricity Surge: A single data center can use 1-2% of a state's power. Michigan's grid is already stretched; this could spike rates for residents, who saw DTE bills rise 10% in 2023.

Hidden Costs: Promises of jobs are overstated—data centers create only 100-200 permanent roles, mostly low-skill. Tax breaks for tech giants shift infrastructure costs to us, raising local taxes. Our rural way of life is at stake.

At the September 23, 2025, hearing, vote NO to preserve Howell's farms, water, and future.

Thank you,
Morgan Kimball

NO DATA CENTER

From Shayna Thompson [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 8:58 AM
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, that we should be protecting.

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. Residents move here for a simply way of life, still connected to community, and I'm worried this would be lost.

I strongly urge you to vote against this rezoning proposal.

Sincerely,
Shayna Thompson, current and hopefully long-term resident

FW: Data center

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:14 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

-----Original Message-----

From: kristi Cousineau [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 9:06 AM

To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>

Subject: Data center

Hello,

My name is Kristi Cousineau. I am a city of Howell resident and am emailing to voice my concern over the new data center that's being proposed.

The one thing that drew me to Howell was the small town feel and big open pieces of land. The amount of change from when I bought 8 years ago to now has been astronomical. Some good and some bad. Our small town can't handle this data center nor do we want it. We were voted most beautiful downtown and we also were close in other years. All of the beauty of Howell in itself, not just downtown will be taken away at this rate and we will look just like every other over developed town. I hope you listen to the people instead of money. The people do not want this.

Thank you for your time
Kristi Cousineau

Rezoning

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:30 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good morning,

I have been a Howell Township resident for almost 20 years. We moved our family here because we liked the country feel but still be close enough to the city to not to be isolated.

I understand the need for rezoning properties, however, when it is at the detriment to the land and the people around it, I do not understand it. Getting a quick influx of cash does not outweigh what will happen in the future.

I hope you listen to the residence and pay attention to our concerns as you are supposed to represent us and do what is best for the community long-term.

My questions are below:

1. What research have you done to look at the local communities that have these data centers and how it has affected them. i.e Agriculture, water, financial.
2. How close do each of you live to this land?

Thank you,
Beth Brown
4092 Indian Camp Trl
Howell, MI 48855
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Concerns over Data Center on Marr Road

From Tracey Brinkman [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:45 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good Morning,

I cannot make the meeting tomorrow night, but I wanted to write in and express my concern about the Data Center proposed on Marr Road. I live on Marr Road. I understand that it is job creation and a major revenue source, but please consider the impact of the residents. My mother lives with me and has a rare lung condition and is on critical care oxygen. We will be forced to move. She will not be able to handle the pollution that happens when the generators run. That will make even healthy people sick and leave a film over the area. And the noise of it will be awful. It will decimate us. Please don't vote for this zoning change. There must be a better location for it than the farmland near residential homes.

Thank you,



Delivering value. For life.

Tracey Brinkman
Senior Vice President, Relationship Manager

[REDACTED]
Wixom
28345 Beck Road Suite 206, Wixom, MI 48393

[REDACTED]
oxfordbank.bank
[Click here](#) to send me files securely.



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Please, No Data Centers in Howell

From Roy, Bracha [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:50 AM

To Howell Township Administration <administration@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Code Enforcement Officer <codeenforcement@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Mr. Hohenstein, Ms. Herbert, and Mr. Boyer,

I firmly believe that having a data center in Howell is the wrong move for us.

Thank you for your careful consideration and the time and effort you put into bettering our community.

Sincerely,

Bracha Roy

Building Substitute Teacher

Howell High School

Data Center comments and notes

From andrew pavlica [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:51 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I was asked to write my concerns here:

We dont want the data center ----- Environmental & Infrastructure Concerns----- Envriomental concerns: pollution, byproduct, waste, wildlife Power demand: Data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity. That can strain the local grid, raise utility rates, and increase vulnerability during peak demand or outages. Water usage: Many centers use millions of gallons of water for cooling. In small communities, that can compete with residential or agricultural needs. Heat & noise: Server farms generate waste heat and often rely on large cooling towers and generators, which can increase local noise pollution. -----Community & Economic Concerns----- Low job creation: Data centers are highly automated, meaning they provide relatively few permanent jobs compared to the land, power, and tax incentives they often consume. Tax incentives vs. benefit: Many communities offer heavy tax breaks to lure data centers, but studies show the return is often poor compared to the strain on infrastructure. Land use: Large facilities can reduce property values for nearby residents and take up land that could otherwise support housing, green space, or businesses that employ more locals. Dont we want cheaper food aka local farming? -----Cyber security risks:----- Cybersecurity & Target Risks Attractive target: Data centers concentrate sensitive data. Hosting one nearby makes your area a more likely target for cyberattacks, protests, or even physical sabotage. Collateral damage: If attackers compromise physical infrastructure or local networks to reach the data center, nearby businesses and residents could be indirectly impacted. Data centers rely on local power grids, water lines, fiber-optic cables, and cellular backhaul. Attackers looking to disrupt or infiltrate the facility may target these shared resources. A denial-of-service against the regional ISP feeding the data center could also knock out internet for homes and small businesses. If attackers physically damage fiber lines or substations, the outage won't just affect the data center — it will ripple into the community. Data centers often interconnect with regional ISPs and carriers. Malicious actors might attempt BGP hijacking, DNS manipulation, or route injection against providers serving the center, inadvertently disrupting local traffic. Nearby businesses sharing the same upstream providers could experience downtime, slowdowns, or even misrouted traffic during such attacks. Physical & Kinetic Security Risks If a data center becomes a target for protest, sabotage, or terrorism, surroundinh areas may get caught in the fallout — whether it's road closures, drone interference, or even physical explosions aimed at backup generators or fuel tanks. Emergency response strain: Local police, fire, and EMS would need to cover the facility as a high-value site, potentially stretching resources thin for residents. Privacy & Monitoring Concerns Large providers may deploy expanded surveillance systems (cameras, RF sensors, drone detection) around their facility. While designed for security, these systems could unintentionally monitor nearby homes, businesses, and traffic patterns. If an attacker compromises those systems, they could expose sensitive footage of the community. Surveillance risks: Depending on who owns the center, there may be concerns about data collection, monitoring, or foreign ownership introducing new risks.

This was not copied and pasted, this is my own words and write up. I would like to read this to the public at the meeting on Tuesday the 23rd.

Security Engineer
Penetration Tester (ethical hacking)
Security Researcher

Respectfully,
Andrew Pavlica

Public Comment - Rezoning Request Public Hearing Sept. 23, 2025

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:56 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Members of the Howell Township Planning Commission:

Allowing an AI data center into your township will be detrimental to the environment and ultimately, to township residents.

It is bad enough that Michigan residents are being targeting by renewable energy projects such as wind, solar, and battery energy storage systems that are proven to be harmful to the environment. These projects have exposed affected residents to consistent noise from inverters, soil erosion, and even water contamination among other negative effects. How much different will an AI data center be?

The Van Gilder family is one of the major investors in this project as a landowner. They were the first to have signed several leases with the 1,900 acre Assembly Solar project in Shiawassee County. Residents living by their leased land, continue to experience the problems I mentioned. The Van Gilders are relentless in destroying valuable farmland.

As a township planning commission, you are responsible for the safety and welfare of your residents.

The minority will profit from this project, and if approved, will destroy your community which will be beyond repair.

Leadership and common sense is expected when making a decision such as this. Please vote No!!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tammy Dasen
Venice Township
Shiawassee County, MI

September 22, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission & Board of Trustees
3525 Byron Road
Howell, MI 48855-7751

Subject: Letter of Support for Rezoning to Enable Large-Scale Technology Data Centers

Dear Members of the Howell Township Planning Commission & Board of Trustees,

Merit Network supports proposed rezoning that would allow for the development of large-scale technology data centers in Howell Township. This initiative represents a forward-thinking step toward securing our region's digital infrastructure, economic resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

As Michigan's Network Provider for community anchor institutions, I recognize data centers as much more than just buildings — they are a key resource for learners of all ages seeking to skill up for future job opportunities and they are hubs that drive further investment keeping communities prosperous. Unfortunately, several misconceptions have emerged that risk obscuring the true value of these facilities. I'd like to address those directly:

✗ Misconception: "Data centers don't create jobs."

✓ Reality: While data centers are highly automated, they require skilled professionals in IT, cybersecurity, facilities management, and network operations. The construction phase alone supports hundreds of jobs, and long-term operations sustain high-paying technical roles. Moreover, data centers attract a broader ecosystem of vendors, service providers, and support industries.

✗ Misconception: "They're noisy, disruptive, and industrial."

✓ Reality: Modern data centers are quiet, low-traffic facilities. They do not produce emissions, odors, or heavy truck traffic. Their design often includes landscaping and architectural features that blend seamlessly into the community. Compared to other industrial uses, data centers have a minimal physical footprint and negligible daily disruption.

✗ Misconception: "They consume excessive energy and harm the environment."

✓ Reality: Today's data centers are among the most energy-efficient facilities in the world. Operators invest heavily in renewable energy, advanced cooling systems, and carbon offset programs. Many are LEED-certified and committed to sustainability goals that exceed local and federal standards. In fact, data centers often partner with utilities to improve grid reliability and accelerate clean energy adoption.

✗ Misconception: "They don't benefit the community."

✓ Reality: Data centers enhance broadband infrastructure, increase tax revenue, and support digital services that touch every aspect of daily life—from healthcare and education to emergency response and small business operations. Their presence signals that a community is ready to participate in the global digital economy.

Approving this rezoning will position Howell Township as a leader in digital infrastructure and innovation. It will send a clear message that Howell Township is open to responsible, future-focused development that benefits residents, businesses, and public institutions alike.

Respectfully, I encourage your support to approve the rezoning request so the full potential of this opportunity can be unlocked. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further insight or support.

Sincerely,



Roger Blake
President and CEO

Merit Network, Inc.

880 Technology Dr., Suite B
Ann Arbor, MI 48108 - 8963



merit.edu

merit

NETWORK. SECURITY. COMMUNITY.

Protesting the data center

From Lindsey Williamson [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:14 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Inspector,

I'm writing to vehemently oppose bringing data centers to Livingston County. Please do not bring this future damage to our town. The benefits of data centers like these will never outweigh the negative costs, now or in the future. Please do not make our residents pay the steep price of having this nearby.

I'll be at the meeting Tuesday evening, and look forward to it. Thank you for the hard work you put into helping our town. I'm sure you're rarely thanked. I trust you'll listen to and honor the requests of our town's people.

See you Tuesday.
Lindsey Williamson

Data Center

From Brian Ray [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:16 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Brian Ray – BRay Electric
[REDACTED]

9/22/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center development in our rural community. This initiative represents a transformative opportunity for our region, bringing with it a host of economic, educational, and infrastructural benefits that will positively impact residents for generations to come.

First and foremost, the data center will create high-quality jobs across a range of skill levels—from construction and maintenance to IT and administrative roles. These positions will not only provide stable employment but also help retain local talent and attract new professionals to our area.

Beyond employment, the presence of a data center can stimulate broader economic growth. Local businesses—such as restaurants, service providers, and suppliers—will benefit from increased demand, while the community may see improvements in broadband infrastructure and energy efficiency as part of the center's development.

Additionally, data centers often partner with local schools and colleges to support STEM education, internships, and workforce training programs. These collaborations can empower our youth with the skills needed to thrive in a digital economy and open doors to future career paths.

Importantly, the proposed data center aligns with sustainable development goals. Modern facilities are designed with energy efficiency and environmental stewardship in mind, often incorporating renewable energy sources and advanced cooling technologies to minimize their ecological footprint.

In summary, the proposed data center is more than just a facility—it is a catalyst for progress. It promises to revitalize our local economy, enhance educational opportunities, and position our community as a forward-thinking hub in the digital age. As a business owner that works mostly in Livingston County, I see this as nothing but a win for our communities.

I wholeheartedly support this project and encourage others to recognize the long-term value it will bring to our community.

Sincerely,
Brian Ray

Owner BRay Electric

Data Center Rezoning

From Valerie Stevens [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:16 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it Concerns,

I am here to express my firm objection to the proposed rezoning and construction of the data center in Howell Township. While such a project may be presented as "progress," it carries significant risks, hazards, and long-term downfalls for our community that cannot be overlooked.

1. Water Usage and Strain on Local Resources

Data centers require massive amounts of water for cooling systems. This will place extreme stress on our aquifers, wells, and municipal water supplies. Residents and farmers could face reduced water availability, lower water pressure, or even contamination risks. Livingston County is not equipped to handle an industrial-scale drain on its water resources.

2. Enormous Energy Consumption

This facility would draw an unprecedented level of electricity, requiring new infrastructure and possibly leading to higher energy costs for residents. The constant energy demand increases the risk of grid instability, blackouts, and long-term environmental impacts from power generation.

3. Noise, Traffic, and Air Pollution

The construction alone would mean years of heavy truck traffic, dust, and noise for nearby residents. Once operational, data centers often rely on large diesel backup generators. These will bring noise pollution, vibration, and harmful emissions into our neighborhoods.

4. Environmental Damage and Loss of Land

Nearly 1,000 acres of farmland and natural habitat would be stripped away and converted into industrial use. Once this land is lost, it is lost for good. The rezoning permanently changes the character of Howell Township, setting a precedent for more large-scale industrial projects in the future.

5. Lack of Long-Term Community Benefit

While a few high-paying jobs are promised, data centers are highly automated and employ far fewer people than traditional industries. This project will not significantly improve local employment opportunities compared to the risks it brings. The tax incentives and infrastructure costs may even outweigh the financial benefit to the township.

6. Transparency and Accountability

The community deserves full disclosure of the corporation behind this proposal, their water and energy usage projections, and their emergency plans for power outages or system failures. Approving this project without clear answers would put our township at risk of future problems we cannot undo.

This project is too large, too risky, and too destructive for Howell Township. The short-term promises cannot outweigh the long-term dangers to our water, our environment, our safety, and our way of life. I urge the Planning Commission to reject the rezoning request and protect the residents, families, and farmers who have built their lives here.

Signed,

A life long Livingston County resident and concerned citizen- Valerie Stevens

Opposed to Data Center

From Julia Pross [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:30 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it Concerns:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rezoning Request for the data center project, and to explain my absence from tomorrow's public hearing. I regret that I cannot attend in person due to a prior commitment.

My concerns regarding this project stem from a deep-seated belief that it will negatively impact our community without offering commensurate benefits. The assertion that data centers bring improvements is, in my opinion, unsubstantiated. Instead, I foresee several significant drawbacks, most notably the exacerbation of already rising energy costs in Southeast Michigan. The recent grid improvements, implemented without sufficient community input, have already led to increased expenses for residents, and this data center project would undoubtedly further strain our resources and increase our collective energy burden.

It is imperative that projects of this magnitude receive thorough, transparent, and community-driven evaluation before proceeding, and I believe this has not been the case.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of approving this rezoning request. The short-term economic gains are far outweighed by the potential for negative environmental impact, increased energy costs, and the lack of demonstrable benefit to our community.

Sincerely,

Julia Barker
Howell Township Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

(No subject)

From Gary Klunzinger [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:32 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I oppose the zoning changes that would help technological construction of any large buildings in Howell township!
Please vote no on changing any zoning ordinances!
Thank you!

Lori Hextall
10378 Stoney Point Drive
South Lyon, MI 48178

September 22, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission & Trustees
3525 Byron Road
Howell, MI 48855-7751


Subject: Letter of Support for Rezoning to Enable Large-Scale Technology Data Centers


Dear Members of the Howell Township Planning Commission & Trustees,


As a technology professional at Merit Network in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with firsthand experience in digital infrastructure, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed rezoning that would allow for the development of large-scale technology data centers in Howell Township.


Data centers are not just buildings filled with servers—they are the foundation of modern life. They power everything from emergency services and healthcare systems to small businesses and remote education. Enabling their development through thoughtful rezoning is not only a strategic move—it's essential for long-term economic and technological resilience.

Unfortunately, I've seen several misconceptions circulating about data centers that deserve clarification:

 Misconception: "Data centers don't create jobs."

 Reality: While highly efficient, data centers require skilled professionals in IT, cybersecurity, electrical engineering, and facilities management. The construction phase alone supports hundreds of jobs, and long-term operations sustain high-paying careers. Additionally, data centers attract a broader ecosystem of vendors, service providers, and support industries.

 Misconception: "They're disruptive to the community."

 Reality: Data centers are quiet, low-traffic facilities. They do not produce emissions, odors, or noise. Compared to other industrial uses, they have a minimal physical footprint

and negligible daily disruption. Their design often includes landscaping and architectural features that blend seamlessly into the community.

✗ Misconception: “They consume excessive energy and harm the environment.”

✓ Reality: Today’s data centers are among the most energy-efficient facilities in the world. Operators invest heavily in renewable energy, advanced cooling systems, and carbon offset programs. Many are LEED-certified and committed to sustainability goals that exceed local and federal standards.

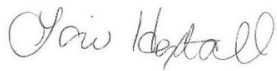
✗ Misconception: “They don’t benefit the local economy.”

✓ Reality: Data centers expand the tax base, improve broadband infrastructure, and attract complementary industries. They signal that a community is ready to participate in the global digital economy, which in turn draws further investment and innovation.

Howell Township has a unique opportunity to position itself as a leader in digital infrastructure. Approving this rezoning will unlock long-term economic growth, technological advancement, and community resilience.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve the rezoning request and help Howell Township embrace a future built on innovation and connectivity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Hextall".

Lori Hextall
Member Engagement Support Manager

Howell Data Center

From Lauren McWhorter [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:46 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning request for the data center project near Howell. Many of us have chosen to live here because of the quiet, rural character of this area. Families have purposely relocated here to escape the noise, traffic, and stress that come with large-scale industrial developments. A data center of this magnitude would erase that lifestyle and permanently change what makes Howell special.

This isn't just about one building. Data centers require massive amounts of water and energy to operate. Our region is already struggling with rising energy costs and infrastructure strain. Adding a facility like this would increase those costs for residents while offering little to no benefit to the community. Once the land is rezoned, it's nearly impossible to turn back, and we risk being left with a facility that only serves outside corporations while we pay the price.

The humming of machines, increased truck traffic, and 24/7 generator noise would completely disrupt the peace we value here. This project puts short-term financial gain over the long-term health and stability of our community.

Please listen to the residents who have built their lives here and reject this rezoning request. Once this door is opened, there's no closing it, and our rural community will be lost for good.

Sincerely,
Lauren McWhorter

September 17, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission;

This afternoon ~~I did~~ attended my third meeting
regard^{ing} a "Data Center" on Van Gilder property
on Grand River.

all things consider^{ed}, I support this project,
I have known the Van Gilder for
nearly 40 years. This is not a money
grab. Van Gilder believe this is right
for the community.

You, on the planning commission, will be
under intense pressure from the public to
not grant the rezoning request, it will
be difficult but you will need to approve
the rezoning for the good of many. It will
be difficult for you.

In today's meeting, a spokesman for the Data
Center project using very carefully chosen words,
said that if things don't go well at the township
level they have other perspective sites.

Regards,
John E Mills

Protect our Land and Community

From Heidi Murawski [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:19 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

I am writing to you not just as a resident of our wonderful small town, but as a neighbor who deeply cares about the future of our community. I strongly oppose the rezoning of farmland for the proposed data center development at the VanGilder Farm.

Our farmland is more than just open space — it represents the character, history, and heart of this township. Once we lose it, we cannot get it back. Allowing this rezoning would forever change the rural beauty and peaceful environment that drew many of us here in the first place.

A massive data center brings with it constant noise, glaring lights at all hours, and heavy traffic. It consumes staggering amounts of energy and water, straining resources that should belong to the people who live here. And yet, for all of the burdens our community would bear, we would see little in return — a facility like this provides very few long-term jobs or benefits for local families.

This is not just about zoning; it's about what kind of community we want to live in and pass down to our children. Do we want to trade farmland, peace, and quality of life for an industrial facility that serves outside interests more than it serves us?

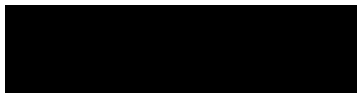
I urge you, with all sincerity, to protect our township's future. Please do not approve the rezoning request. Stand with the residents who love this community and want to see it thrive in ways that truly benefit us all.

Thank you for listening, and thank you for your service to our township.

Sincerely,

4972 Hogback rd

Fowlerville, MI 48836



No Data Center Reasons

From nicole pybus [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:26 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hi there,

I wanted to reach out and discuss several reasons why the Data Center would not be good for our area. I'm going to try to be brief as I know you have a lot of messages to read, so please excuse my short reasons.

1) Area water supply- we live right on top of the watersheds that serves not just the local area, but many other towns and regions around us. Using that amount of water & having the tainted run off from that a data center will drain and damage water from our rivers, lakes, ponds, home wells...all of this will be affected by a data center...including our farm land. This will essential poison the people you represent, drop home values, and crash our local economies in the long run. If you take a look...the Flint River watershed...damaged. This data center would essential drain out our Shiawassee Watershed & it would be damaged like another Midland, Saginaw, Flint.

2) Pollution fall out- when I lived on up by Saginaw...quite frequently the cancer belt just south of Midland Dow was discussed on a regular basis. People talked about how the air pollution, the water pollution, and soil pollution damaged everything around the south end. All of the animals in the area as well tested high for various chemicals. Farmers had a tough time selling crops & animals. Hunters (which my family relies on venison meat) would also suffer from not being able to hunt in the area. Fishing as well...damaged.

These are a few of my discussion points that might be different from others.

Thank you!
Nicole Chouinard

Nicole J. Chouinard
[REDACTED]

Data center

From Beth Wojnarowski [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:28 AM
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,
Beth, Howell, MI

Data Center Public Comments

From Laurel Castiglione [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:33 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am a property owner in Howell Township. I am extremely concerned about the proposed data center and its impact on the quality of living in Howell township.

The amount of water and electricity required for both construction and operations of a large data center is typically an enormous amount. This poses unacceptable risk to our clean water supply.

A thorough environmental and economic impact study should be conducted and made public priority to any approval or rezoning.

I appreciate the value of bringing in additional tax dollars. I also understand why the property owners want to capitalize on this opportunity. However, I am very concerned about the impact on property values for those of us who remain in the community.

The impact studies should include an assessment of noise levels at all decibels. There is data that indicates noise pollution is a rising concern in communities with existing data centers due to the large amounts of digital equipment running 24/7. There is potential impact to humans and animals.

The studies should also include the impact of large scale energy demand on existing customers. It should spell out sources of that energy and whether it is existed or required infrastructure

Water cooling methods and disposition are also important to understand.

My former employer inadvertently & unknowingly poisoned a whole community utilizing water as a method of cooling. No one thought it could possibly be a problem because it was just water being pumped up to cool and then released back into the ground. There were nothing in the process that could creat a problem.

Unfortunately the sealant painted on the water tank walls broke down over time and leached into the water supply. Absence of malice, unforeseen outcome but terrible for all involved.

Our community is a thriving mix of farming, residential and business. Its a delicate balance that must be protected.

Bottom line, I urge all to vote no to rezoning. Our quality of living is too precious to risk.

Until the big data companies develop less destructive solutions to address their energy and water consumption needs its not a good investment for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.
Laurel Castiglione

Data center opposition

From Jenn Hostler [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:33 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it Concerns:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rezoning Request for the data center project, and to explain my absence from tomorrow's public hearing. I regret that I cannot attend in person due to a prior commitment.

My concerns regarding this project stem from a deep-seated belief that it will negatively impact our community and the environment without offering commensurate benefits. The assertion that data centers bring improvements is, in my opinion, unsubstantiated. Instead, I foresee several significant drawbacks, most notably the exacerbation of already rising energy costs in Southeast Michigan. The recent grid improvements, implemented without sufficient community input, have already led to increased expenses for residents, and this data center project would undoubtedly further strain our resources and increase our collective energy burden.

It is imperative that projects of this magnitude receive thorough, transparent, and community-driven evaluation before proceeding, and I believe this has not been the case.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of approving this rezoning request. The short-term economic gains are far outweighed by the potential for negative environmental impact, increased energy costs, and the lack of demonstrable benefit to our community.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hostler

Opposing The Rezoning

From Becca Barikmo [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:38 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>
Cc [REDACTED]

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the rezoning of land between Howell and Fowlerville for research and technology. I fear this decision would have long lasting negative impacts on the town and its residents and children.

The use of the land for building data centers and other industrial purposes would have a devastating effect on the environment - we know from other people whose towns have been used to build data centers that the sound & air pollution has devastated their area and land.

I vehemently oppose this rezoning as a mother, local business owner and homeowner.

I hope you take the opinions of the citizens of Howell into consideration in this decision, which seem to be a resounding, "No thank you!"

Sincerely,

Rebecca Barikmo

Proposed data center

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:46 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I live within 0.5 miles of this proposed site and myself and neighbors are adamantly opposed to this. Our property values will be tanked. The noise pollution will be intolerable not to mention the environmental pollution. There is zero benefit to the communities of Howell township or Fowlerville. Why is this even being considered? There will be a handful of jobs created but at what cost to the community. This is a bell you can't un ring. What if your family had this dumped on them? Please do the right thing for the families in the area.

Sincerely,

Dennis Gillies
6405 Kimberly Jean ct
Fowlerville
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

FW: Howell township

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:00 PM

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



From: Ethan Keough [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:49 AM
To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>
Subject: Howell township

Dear Howell Township Officials,

My name is Ethan, and I am both a resident and an employee within this community. I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the proposed development of a data center in our area.

While I understand the need for technological infrastructure, I believe a data center could bring significant negative impacts to Howell Township, particularly to our rural character, environment, and quality of life.

One of my primary concerns is groundwater usage. Data centers consume enormous amounts of water for cooling, which could place stress on our local water supply—especially during times of drought or increased demand. In rural communities, where many residents rely on private wells, this could create long-term sustainability issues.

Additionally, the construction and operation of a data center often result in:

- **Increased noise pollution** from backup generators and cooling systems,
- **Higher electricity usage**, which can strain the local power grid,
- **Heavy truck traffic and road degradation** during and after construction,
- **Light pollution** that disrupts the rural night sky,
- And perhaps most concerning, **a decline in property values**, as industrial development often makes residential areas less desirable.

This kind of facility is not in harmony with the rural and residential nature of Howell Township. I fear it may drive residents away, discourage future families from moving here, and alter the character of the community we've all worked hard to build.

I respectfully urge the township to reconsider this decision and to engage the community more directly before moving forward. I am not alone in my concerns—I believe many of my fellow residents share these reservations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ethan

Concern for rezoning for data center

From Allison Standring [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:51 AM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it Concerns:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rezoning Request for the data center project, and to explain my absence from tomorrow's public hearing. I regret that I cannot attend in person due to having to work.

My concerns regarding this project stem from a deep-seated belief that it will negatively impact our community without offering commensurate benefits. The assertion that data centers bring improvements is, in my opinion, unsubstantiated. Instead, I foresee several significant drawbacks, most notably the exacerbation of already rising energy costs in Southeast Michigan. The recent grid improvements, implemented without sufficient community input, have already led to increased expenses for residents, and this data center project would undoubtedly further strain our resources and increase our collective energy burden.

It is imperative that projects of this magnitude receive thorough, transparent, and community-driven evaluation before proceeding, and I believe this has not been the case.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of approving this rezoning request. The short-term economic gains are far outweighed by the potential for negative environmental impact, increased energy costs, and the lack of demonstrable benefit to our community.

Sincerely,
Allison Standring

Rezoning of Data Center property

From Cory [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:54 AM

To Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

My name is Cory Alchin and I strongly oppose the rezoning of the property on Grand River that is being zoned for a potential Data Center build. My concerns are based from University of Michigan Research Paper citing the source here "What happens when a data center comes to town."

<https://stpp.fordschool.umich.edu/sites/stpp/files/2025-07/stpp-data-centers-2025.pdf>

Schools & Taxes – Exemptions Cut Local Revenue

- The study documents that Michigan's **Public Act 207 of 2024** exempts data centers from paying personal property taxes on servers, cooling, and backup equipment — the most valuable assets.
- Direct Michigan example:

"In the case of Switch's data center in Michigan, the company sought exemptions from property taxes that funded school districts. This move directly reduced the revenue streams for Caledonia Community Schools and Kent Intermediate School District, resulting in a prolonged legal dispute ... the overall tax contribution to schools is significantly diminished." (pp. 7–8)

- **Message to township:** The FAQ's claim of "millions for schools" is contradicted by Michigan's own precedent. Schools risk losing revenue while residents and other businesses make up the gap.

Utility Rates – Costs Shifted to Residents

- The study found:

"Data centers increase local electric utility rates by driving up overall energy demand, which can strain grid capacity and force utilities to invest in costly infrastructure upgrades. These costs are passed on to residents through higher rates." (pp. 2, 8–9)

- Michigan precedent: Since the Switch data center opened in Grand Rapids in 2017, residential electricity rates have risen **25%**, now 17% above the national average.
- **Message to township:** Promises that “your bills won’t go up” are false. Michigan residents already saw higher utility rates tied directly to data center expansion.

Overall, the community is speaking out on this. And at the very least, we understand that this affects everyone who lives here. Please add this to the popular vote next election as this should be a community wide decision. Will you put it to a popular vote?

Thank you,

Cory Alchin
Resident of Howell Township
800 Sleaford Rd.

Sept 22 2025

To.
Howell Township,

As residents of Howell Township for 23 years we are against any data center or government or utility having a large land grab and possible land destruction, tax increase for residents, huge traffic influx and a big bottoming out of our homes values. Only People want all this mess is desperate Job Seekers with no loyalty to this community.

Sincerely, Scott & Terry Dibble
2201 Oak Grove.

Rezoning of Land Public from AR to RT Hearing Feedback

From Jackie G Brown [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:01 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Good morning. I am unable to attend the public hearing tomorrow evening at the Howell Township hall. I am a resident and want my voice to be heard.

I am not in favor of rezoning large parcels of land in Howell and Fowlerville from Agriculture/Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT).

We live in this area for it's beauty and the fact that there are still rural parcels of land.

We do not want to see these areas being rezoned for RT. We are not in favor of the extra noise, truck traffic and cost to taxpayers to support this.

It is also very concerning that no detailed plans have been shared with the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Jackie Brown

No Data Center

From Taylor Roberts [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:02 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Howell Inspector,

I am emailing to express my concerns regarding the proposed data center taking place in the Howell/Fowlerville area—our small town. While I do recognize the advancements in technology and the role that data centers play in supporting upcoming technology and business, I do not believe that our community or surrounding farmland is an appropriate location for this facility.

Much of the community living in this area, have lived here for generations and they continue to do so because of the environment this is known for. Placing a data center disrupts the community that so many of us have lived in for years or for generations! Our towns are known and valued for their quiet, rural character and deep rooted agricultural culture. Bringing in a large industrial-style data center disrupts this! Farmlands should be preserved for its intended purpose—farming, open space, and community life—not converted into something that majority of the community does not want or approve of!

In addition, I am concerned about the strain this would place on local resources, considering this community relies on such. Data centers bring an enormous amount of electricity, and water for cooling, resources that so many of us in the community need to sustain our living needs. This type of demand is going to increase costs and reduce the availability for people living nearby, myself and family included. Not to mention the noise, pollution, increased traffic from construction and maintenance from this facility would worsen the quality of life we value in a small, close-knit community. These disruptions will damage the property values and discourage the positive growth of the town that is reflected in its history and character.

So many of the members of the community urge you to listen and have our concerns be heard before advancing with this project.

Thank you for your attention and keeping our interests of the community we have grown up in at the center of this decision.

Sincerely,
Taylor Roberts

Rezoning Request for Stantec Consulting

From Victoria Orlewicz <[REDACTED]>
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:04 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family resides in Livingston County. We are writing to oppose the request to rezone the property request from Stantec Consulting Michigan from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research & Technology. The petition does not indicate what the intended use of the property they plan to rezone to the public. As a resident, we do not want data centers or other plants taking over valuable agricultural land in our county. As the available farm land is being converted for other uses, Michigan is losing its ability to grow its own food for a short sighted financial gain at the expense of residents.

Please reject the petition.

Respectfully,

Victoria Orlewicz

Data Center Opposition

From Daniel Dubiel <[REDACTED]>
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:07 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Dear Members of the Howell Township Board and Planning Commission,

I write as a resident living in close proximity to the proposed rezoning request (below) and I strongly oppose it.

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

The request to rezone these parcels from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Research and Technology (RT) zoning carries significant risks for the community, environment, and surrounding residents.

Reasons for Opposition

1. Per Article XXIII and Section 23.02, the Board must determine consistency with the Master Plan before approving any rezoning. The Howell Township draft Future Land Use Map designates the subject parcels as Agricultural Preservation. The Township Master Plan states the following regarding the Agricultural Preservation future land use classification: "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 AP 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." Therefore the zoning request from AR to RT conflicts with the plan and should be denied, or the plan should be amended first with full public process.

2. Environmental Damage and Loss of Wildlife - Rezoning to RT opens the door to large-scale industrial and data-center type facilities that destroy farmland and wildlife corridors. Michigan environmental groups warn that these projects eliminate habitat, increase impervious surface runoff, and can discharge heat or pollutants into waterways (Huron River Watershed Council).

3. Water Use and Potential Contamination - Data centers and similar technology facilities consume massive amounts of water. Reports show average centers use over 1 million gallons per day for cooling, straining aquifers and municipal systems (Bridge Michigan). Wastewater and heated discharge further threaten aquatic life and groundwater integrity.

4. Energy Demand and Grid Reliability - Michigan already faces reliability issues with frequent outages. Data centers impose enormous electrical loads that worsen strain and can degrade power quality for nearby residents. A University of Michigan policy study warns this level of energy demand

forces utilities to keep fossil plants running or build new ones, undermining clean-energy goals (STPP Ford School).

5. Property Values and Community Impact - Property values near industrial technology projects typically decline due to noise, glare, traffic, and degraded surroundings. While developers promote supposed tax benefits, Michigan's nonpartisan fiscal analysis projected over \$90 million in state and local tax revenue losses by 2065 tied to data center incentives, with limited job creation (Planet Detroit). Local residents bear the costs while benefits largely bypass the community.

Request to the Board

Given the scope of this petition, I respectfully request the Board and Planning Commission to deny rezoning from AR to RT for the subject parcels. At minimum, the township must require:

Issue

Proposed Requirement

Law/Ordinance/Regulation Be Adopted/Enforced

Environmental impact, water use, wildlife, habitat protection

Require a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to rezoning, covering water draw, wastewater discharge, wildlife habitat, effects on wetlands, heat discharge, etc.

Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006 (MCL 125.3201 et seq.) gives townships power to regulate land uses to protect public health, safety, welfare, natural resources and conserve natural resources and energy. (Michigan Legislature) Also requires compliance with state/federal wetland protection laws (e.g. Clean Water Act) and local wetland ordinance if present. Include Michigan Public Act(s) for enterprise data centers (e.g. House Bill 4906 / Public Act 207 of 2024) which require data centers to adopt practices to mitigate negative environmental impacts, including water reuse, renewable power, etc. (Michigan Legislature)

Electric infrastructure & energy demand, grid strain

Require proof of adequate electric capacity, reliability, and no degradation of service to existing customers. Also require binding contracts or rate structures so other ratepayers do not subsidize utility upgrades.

From the report What Happens When Data Centers Come to Town? (U of Michigan Ford School & Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition) suggesting that states/localities should mandate energy audits, renewable energy integration, enforce transparency in energy usage, regulate utility rate-hikes to prevent cost-shifting. (stpp.fordschool.umich.edu) Also Michigan legislature is considering legislation (and some passed) that requires data centers to draw from municipal water systems, and to ensure residential energy customers are not subsidizing lower rates for data centers. (Planet Detroit)

Water usage and potential contamination

Require water-use plans, including sources (surface, groundwater, municipal), treatment of wastewater or cooling discharge, reuse or recycling of water, limit on heat discharge, and monitoring/reporting.

Adopt ordinance to require these for any RT zoned development.

Public Act 207 of 2024 / HB 4906 includes provisions encouraging conservation, reuse, recycling of water, use of reclaimed water, partnering with utilities, etc. (Michigan Legislature) Also the "What Happens When Data Centers Come to Town?" report advocates such requirements.

(stpp.fordschool.umich.edu)

Noise, lighting, traffic, externalities, property value protection

Adopt local ordinances or update the zoning code to include noise ordinances (decibel limits), lighting control, traffic mitigation (hours, truck access), buffer zones, setbacks, screening, etc. Also define property value protection (ensuring neighboring residential properties are not unduly harmed).

Michigan's Noise-Related Statutes allow local control via ordinance, including limiting outdoor decibel levels. For example MCL 691.1542 covers rules or regulations adopted by the state for limiting noise levels in an outdoor atmosphere. Local noise ordinances (such as those in Clio, Michigan, or Orleans Township's Noise Control Ordinance) show examples of noise disturbance definitions and

enforcement. (Michigan Legislature) Also under Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, zoning ordinances must be made with "reasonable consideration ... for the conservation of property values." MCL 125.3203(1) mentions "conservation of property values and natural resources." (Michigan Legislature) Transparency, reporting, enforceable conditions

Require binding, enforceable conditions in the rezoning decision, with ongoing reporting (energy use, water use, noise, outage impact). Also require that site plan approval includes conditions; require special land use / performance guarantees.

Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006: sections concerning Special Land Uses (MCL 125.3502) and Site Plan Submission and Approval (MCL 125.3501). These allow the township to impose conditions, enforce compliance, require guarantees, etc. (Michigan Legislature) Also Public Act 207 / HB 4906 requires that data centers applying for tax exemptions must maintain certain reporting to the MSF (Michigan Strategic Fund) including water, energy usage, and invoices. (Michigan Legislature)

Conclusion

In considering File # PC2025-20, please note a nearly identical rezoning request in nearby community Saline Township that was recently denied on September 11, 2025, after residents and officials cited the same concerns outlined above. The petitioner's request for the subject parcels not only conflict with the township's master plan and future land use map (which emphasizes conserving agricultural land and sensitive resources, and weighs against converting large tracts of farmland to RT for high-intensity technology uses) but jeopardizes our communities farmland, water, wildlife, electric reliability, and property values. These risks far outweigh any speculative economic benefit.

I urge the Township to stand with its residents and reject this rezoning request.

Sincerely,
Dan Dubiel and Family

Data centers

From [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:12 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Supervisor <supervisor@howelltownshipmi.org>

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose any effort to rezone agricultural or residential land to allow a Meta data center. This project would put our community's essential resources at risk for the benefit of one corporation.

- **Electricity:** Data centers consume massive power. Ratepayers—not Meta—are often left covering grid upgrades and higher bills.
- **Water:** These facilities can require millions of gallons daily, threatening residential supply, farms, and aquifers.
- **Jobs & Taxes:** After construction, they create few permanent jobs. Tax breaks usually leave local schools and services shortchanged.
- **Environment:** Added demand undermines Michigan's climate goals and increases reliance on fossil fuels.

Our farmland and neighborhoods should not be sacrificed for a project that endangers our water, raises our bills, and offers little in return. I urge the Township to protect our resources and deny any rezoning for this purpose.


Sincerely,

Meg Marhofer

Howell Township Resident

Rezoning

From Danielle Redilla [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:21 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

 1 attachment (292 KB)
Rezoning Proposal.PNG;

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disagreement with the attached proposal to rezone property from Agricultural Residential to Research and Technology. I have lived in Howell for 33 years, and my family has lived here for 40 years. We moved here for the tranquility and peacefulness. Constructing a data center in Howell would ruin this tranquility and peacefulness for current residents and future generations alike.

As seen with other data centers across the country, the initial construction of the facility may provide jobs, but after construction is complete data centers usually only employ 50-100 people ([Data centers bring money to small towns. But do they also bring jobs? : NPR](#)). This low number of permanent jobs does not justify the environmental impact of this project. The director of the Marion Howell Oceola Genoa water plant has stated that he does not even know if our current water system has the capacity to maintain this project ([Howell Township could be home to Michigan's largest data center – The Livingston Post.com](#)). With water and electricity rates already rising, this data center would put additional strain on our already fragile and overstretched water supplies and electrical grids, raising rates even further. The state of Michigan also experienced a drought this summer, and we have seen in other areas of the country that data centers exacerbate droughts ([Drought-stricken communities push back against data centers](#)). The land proposed to be rezoned should be kept as farmland, especially as demands for agriculture will not decrease any time soon.

Please reconsider the rezoning of this land to help protect the precious resources and community of Howell.

Thank you,
Danielle Redilla

September 22, 2025

To: Howell Township Planning Commission

Reasons a Data Center is Harmful to Howell Township and not in the best interest of residents:

1. Environmental Disruption and Threat to Wildlife - The proposed data center would severely disrupt the natural environment. This could displace wildlife, fragment their habitats, and threaten the survival of vulnerable species. Research from MIT underscores how data centers contribute to underrepresented ecological impacts, including habitat fragmentation and biodiversity decline due to land use and associated pollution.
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. Studies show that AI-driven data centers are exacerbating energy demands through unsustainable sources like coal-fired plants, with global expansion projected to consume energy equivalent to entire countries. FracTracker's national tracker further reveals the pollution and public health risks tied to this unchecked growth in energy use.
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. According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), data center water usage mirrors their energy demands and carbon emissions, with hyperscale facilities consuming millions of gallons annually—equivalent to the needs of thousands of households. Additional reports from AKCP highlight how this contributes to drought exacerbation and habitat loss in vulnerable areas, such as the American West, with similar risks applicable to our local ecosystems. Environmental groups in regions like Wisconsin have raised alarms over AI data centers' projected water withdrawals, which could rival municipal supplies.

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, this noise could cause stress, alter behavior, and diminish the quality of life in our rural community. A study published in Global Transitions further documents how data centers produce substantial noise from HVAC systems and diesel generators, impacting human health and nearby ecosystems through chronic exposure. Gradient Corporation's analysis of large data centers confirms this as a key community concern, alongside water and power issues.

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. NPR reporting on resident push back in Virginia illustrates how data centers' intensive resource demands have sparked widespread opposition due to their environmental toll. Net Zero Insights notes that even water-cooled variants, while marginally more efficient, still emit significant carbon and strain resources.

In conclusion, the construction of a data center in Howell Township would have far-reaching consequences for our environment, wildlife, and community resources, as evidenced by these peer-reviewed and organizational studies. 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. Please vote NO.

Regards,



Joell Maddox

5683 Fisher Road

Howell Township, MI 48855

Letter of rezoning support for Howell Township proposed data center

From Kristoffer Tobbe <KTobbe@livgov.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:27 PM

To Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Cc Nathan Burd <NBurd@livgov.com>; Jay Drick <JDrick@livgov.com>

 4 attachments (4 MB)

LivCo Info. Tech. Letter of Support CIO K Tobbe.pdf; Community Anchor Institutions_20240924_Data.pdf;
Trunkline_Network_Complete_Population_Buffer_ROBIN_Anchor_Institutions.pdf;
Trunkline_Network_Complete_Population_Buffer_ROBIN_Anchor_Institutions.pdf;

Good afternoon, Howell Township team

I am wishing you all well this September and I am wishing you all a peaceful planning process around the topics laid out on tomorrow's agenda.

As the Livingston County Chief Information Officer, I would like to offer this letter of support in favor of the rezoning of the property as desired by the landowner and potential developer. Please pass along this letter of support to the Howell Township officials. There are always a lot of questions around these types of activities and land uses, I am confident in the capabilities of the Howell Township team to antiquely vet and enforce the necessary restrictions to make this site a successful community project that advances U.S. interests in the global technology economy.


Additionally, you will find a map of the Livingston County Fiber and conduit system that has (4) conduit pathways around this site. This system laid the groundwork for advancing the possibility of assisting in the creation of a new technology economy centered here in Livingston County. Our project was authorized by the Livingston County Board of Commissioners in December of 2021 and is now completed.

More in the Livingston County Fiber and Conduit project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qupyQBpolmo&t=8s>

With well wishes
Kris Tobbe

Kristoffer L. Tobbe, MSM
Chief Information Officer
Livingston County Michigan
Email: ktobbe@livgov.com





**LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

304 E. Grand River Ave., Suite 101, Howell, MI 48843
Phone 517.548.3230 Fax 517.545.9608
Web Site: livgov.com

September 22, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission & Board of Trustees
3525 Byron Road
Howell, MI 48855-7751

Via Electronic Mail

RE: Howell Township Rezoning prospect; Letter of Support for Rezoning to Enable
Large-Scale Technology Data Centers

Dear Howell Township Planning Commission, Supervisor & Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the Livingston County Information Technology Department, and as the Chief Information Officer for Livingston County, I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the proposed rezoning that would allow for the development of large-scale technology data centers in Howell Township. This initiative project represents a forward-thinking step toward securing our region's digital infrastructure, economic resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

Forward thinking and wise fiscal decisions that impact our residents and community are something that we in Livingston County I.T. understand. With support of the County Board of commissioners, we have designed, engineered and constructed a \$15.5 million dollar fiber optic and conduit system to assist in the process of bringing advanced fiber optic connectivity to our public safety entities, county and municipal organizations as well as connectivity opportunities to our schools, residents and health care systems alike. Our system was paid for with a combination of ARAP and private contributions, and was engineered and constructed to have significant rapid growth opportunities by installing not 1 but 6 additional fiber conduits to enhance technological investment in Livingston County. This project by design created multiple pathways through both Handy and Howell townships created (4) pathways around the site considered for rezoning. Enhancing technology opportunities for Livingston County.

From my vantage point overseeing enterprise technology strategy, I can confidently say that data centers are not just buildings—they are the backbone of modern commerce, public services, and innovation. Unfortunately, several misconceptions have emerged that risk obscuring the true value of these facilities. I'd like to address those directly:

✗ Misconception: “Data centers don’t create jobs.”

✓ Reality: While data centers are highly automated, they require skilled professionals in IT, cybersecurity, facilities management, and network operations. The construction phase alone supports hundreds of jobs, and long-term operations sustain high-paying technical roles. Moreover, data centers attract a broader ecosystem of vendors, service providers, and support industries.

✗ Misconception: “They’re noisy, disruptive, and industrial.”

✓ Reality: Modern data centers are quiet, low-traffic facilities. They do not produce emissions, odors, or heavy truck traffic. Their design often includes landscaping and architectural features that blend seamlessly into the community. Compared to other industrial uses, data centers have a minimal physical footprint and negligible daily disruption.

✗ Misconception: “They consume excessive energy and harm the environment.”

✓ Reality: Today’s data centers are among the most energy-efficient facilities in the world. Operators invest heavily in renewable energy, advanced cooling systems, and carbon offset programs. Many are LEED-certified and committed to sustainability goals that exceed local and federal standards. In fact, data centers often partner with utilities to improve grid reliability and accelerate clean energy adoption.

✗ Misconception: “They don’t benefit the community.”

✓ Reality: Data centers enhance broadband infrastructure, increase tax revenue, and support digital services that touch every aspect of daily life—from healthcare and education to emergency response and small business operations. Their presence signals that a community is ready to participate in the global digital economy. Approving this rezoning will position Howell Township as a leader in digital infrastructure and innovation. It will send a clear message that our community is open to responsible, future-focused development that benefits residents, businesses, and public institutions alike.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve the rezoning request and help unlock the full potential of this opportunity. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further insight or support.

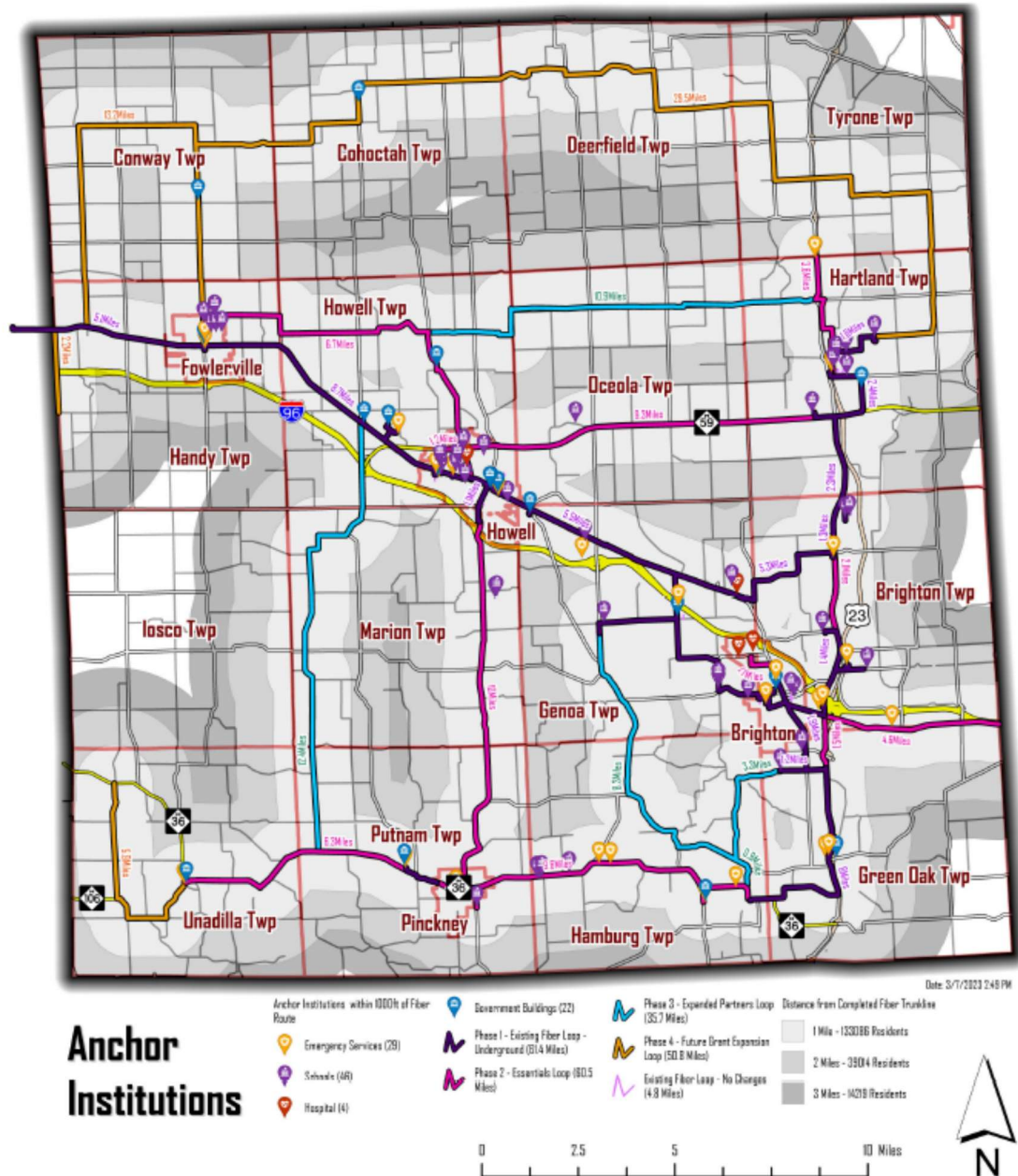
Should your team have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at ktobbe@livgov.com or 810.423.4086.

Sincerely,

Kristoffer Tobbe

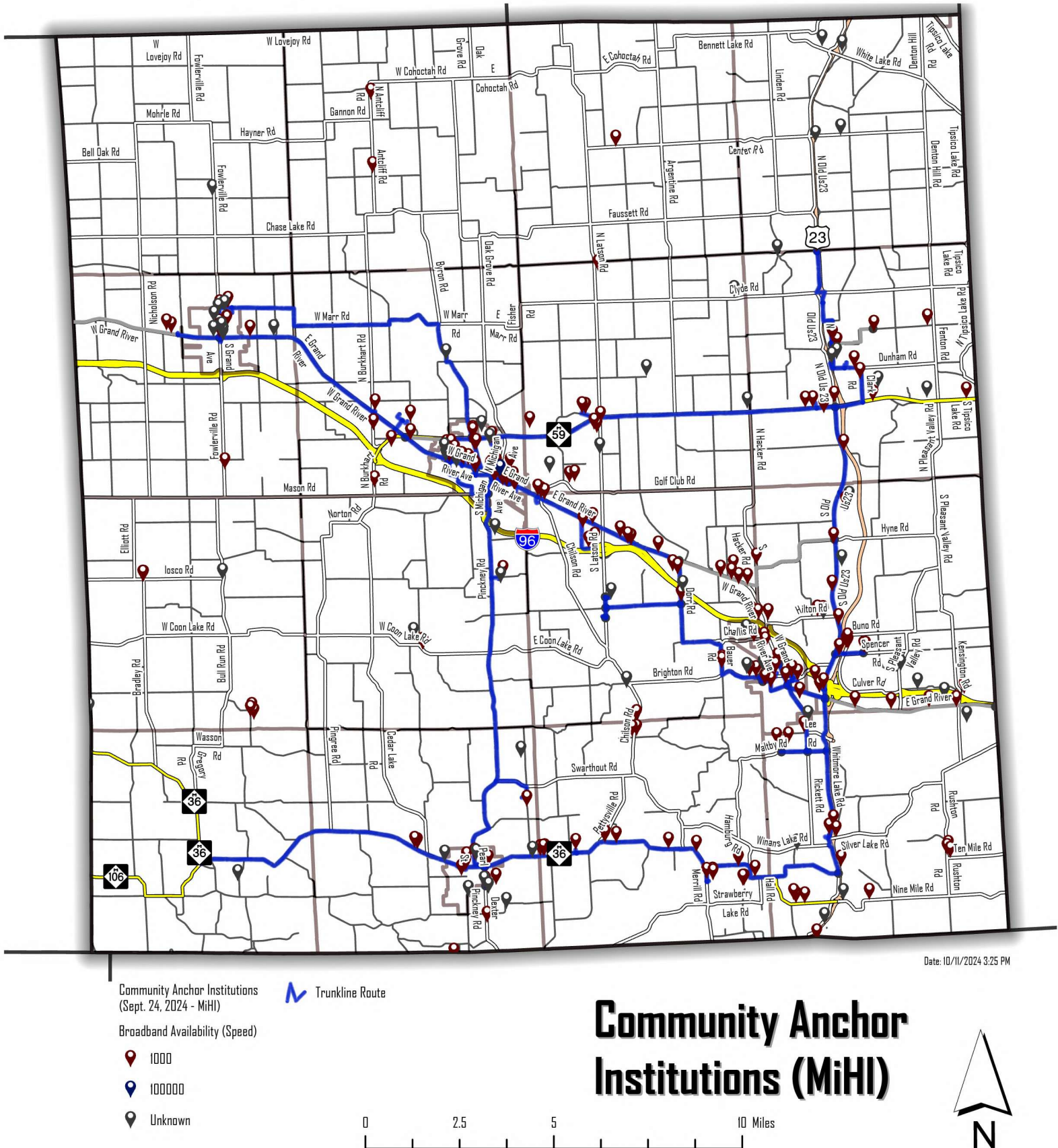
Livingston County Chief Information Officer
304 E. Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 4884
Email: ktobbe@livgov.com

Livingston Public Safety, Education, Municipal Open Fiber Optic Trunkline Network

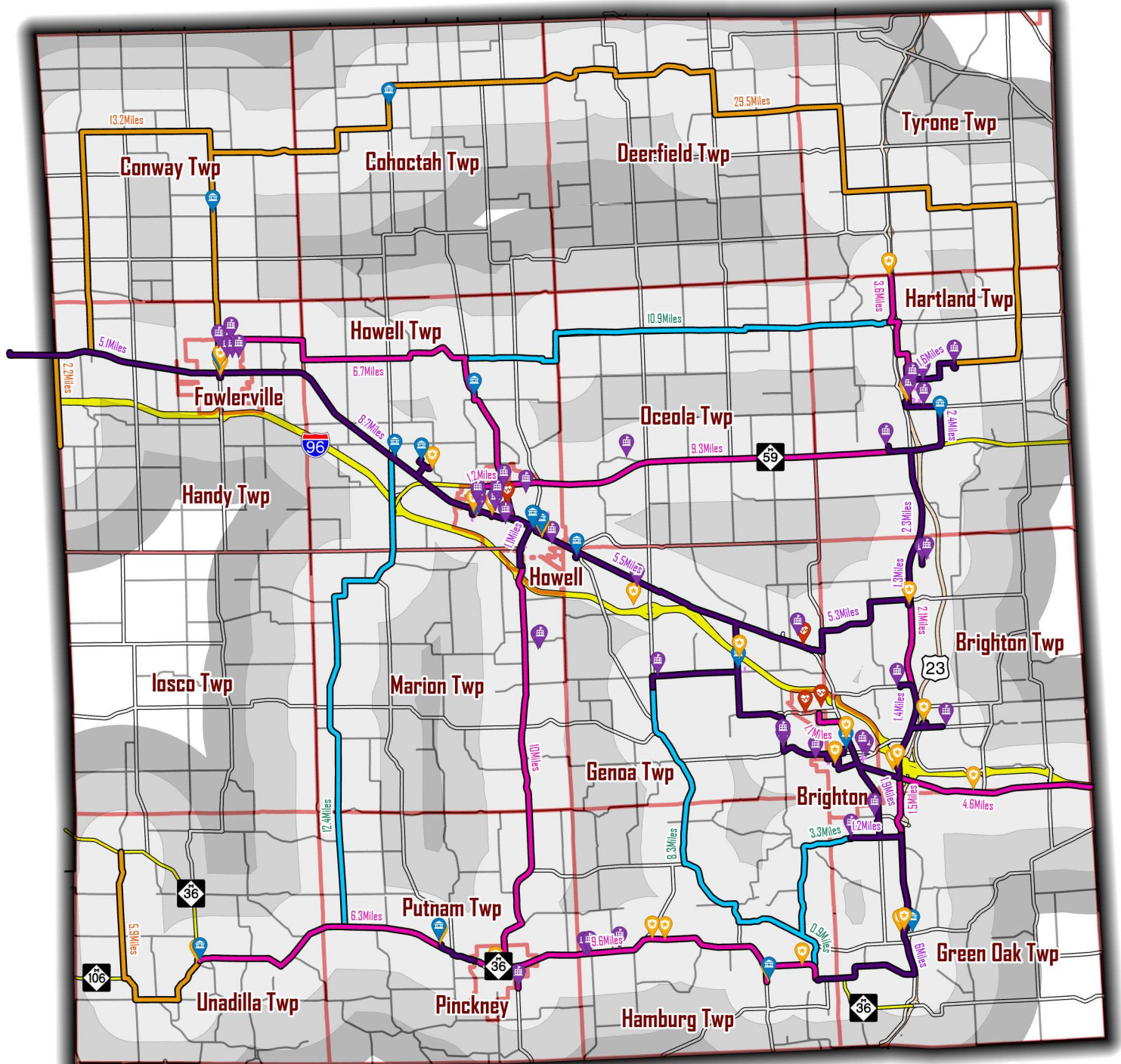


December 2022 Livingston County Board of Commissioners Approved Resolution.

Livingston Public Safety, Education, Municipal Open Fiber Optic Trunkline Network



Livingston Public Safety, Education, Municipal Open Fiber Optic Trunkline Network



Date: 3/7/2023 2:49 PM

Anchor Institutions

Anchor Institutions: within 1000ft of Fiber Route

- Emergency Services (29)
- Schools (46)
- Hospital (4)

Government Buildings (22)

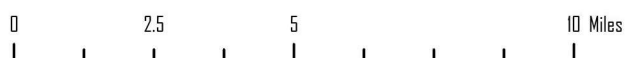
- Phase 1 - Existing Fiber Loop - Underground (61.4 Miles)
- Phase 2 - Essentials Loop (60.5 Miles)

Phase 3 - Expanded Partners Loop (35.7 Miles)

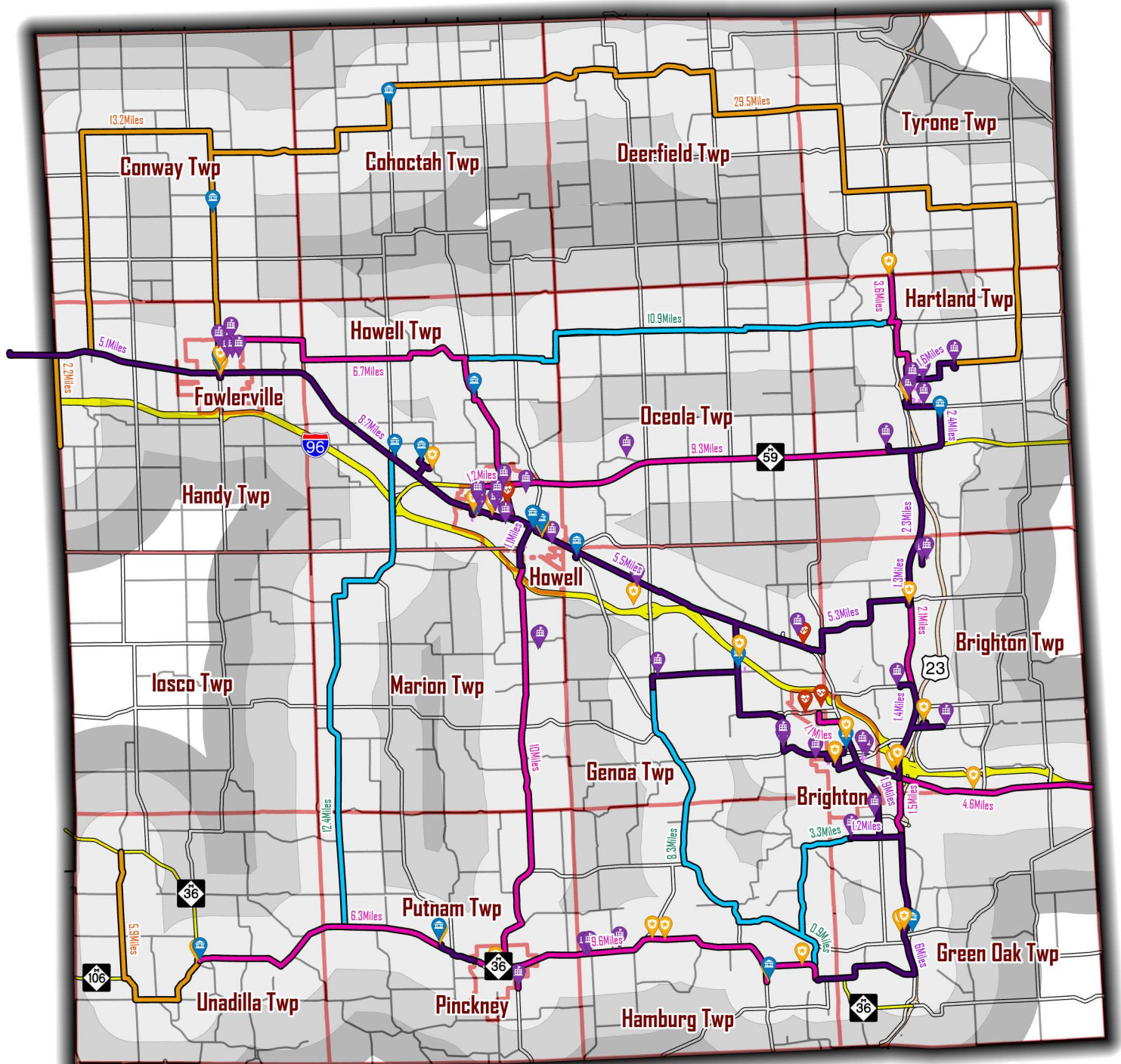
- Phase 4 - Future Grant Expansion Loop (50.8 Miles)
- Existing Fiber Loop - No Changes (4.8 Miles)

Distance from Completed Fiber Trunkline

- 1 Mile - 133,086 Residents
- 2 Miles - 390,14 Residents
- 3 Miles - 142,19 Residents



Livingston Public Safety, Education, Municipal Open Fiber Optic Trunkline Network



Date: 3/7/2023 2:49 PM

Anchor Institutions

Anchor Institutions: within 1000ft of Fiber Route

- Emergency Services (29)
- Schools (46)
- Hospital (4)

Government Buildings (22)

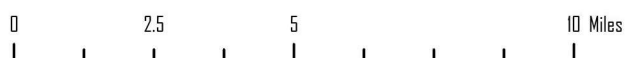
- Phase 1 - Existing Fiber Loop - Underground (61.4 Miles)
- Phase 2 - Essentials Loop (60.5 Miles)

Phase 3 - Expanded Partners Loop (35.7 Miles)

- Phase 4 - Future Grant Expansion Loop (50.8 Miles)
- Existing Fiber Loop - No Changes (4.8 Miles)

Distance from Completed Fiber Trunkline

- 1 Mile - 133086 Residents
- 2 Miles - 39014 Residents
- 3 Miles - 14219 Residents



FW: Stantec Conditional Rezoning Request

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

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:30 PM

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



From: kristine lindsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Howell Township Deputy Assessor / Deputy Zoning Administrator <office@howelltownshipmi.org>
Subject: Stantec Conditional Rezoning Request

Howell Township Board of Trustees
3525 Byron Road
Howell, MI 48855

My name is Kristine Cook Lindsey,
and I live at 3920 Highcrest Drive, Brighton, MI 48116.

I am expressing my opposition to the proposed Conditional Rezoning of the 19 parcels from Agricultural Residential, Single Family Residential and Neighborhood Service Residential to Research and Technology that Stantec Consulting Michigan, Inc. and Randee, LLC are requesting. It is my understanding that should this rezoning of these 1,10 acres go forward that a monstrous data center is planned to be built. This would have a significant harmful impact on not just the immediate surrounding areas but all of Livingston County. The water (I am an MHOG customer and live on a spring fed beautiful lake) and electricity needs on data centers are exponentially more than any of the current demand and will only increase costs and negatively impact water quality and availability.

I have lived most of my life in Livingston County because I love our tranquil rural bedroom community away from urban sprawl, as do many others, and this development invites urban sprawl. It is already being overdeveloped in the image of the urban sprawl that surrounds Detroit. A data center is completely

out of character with the surrounding community and the county. And as I understand it, it is not something that the Howell Township master plan has ever contemplated.

For these and many other reasons, I ask the township to deny any rezoning of the 1,100 acres.

Sincerely,

Kristine Cook Lindsey

September 22, 2025

Howell Township Planning Commission
3525 Byron Road
Howell, MI 48855-7751

Subject: Letter of Support for Proposed Data Center Project

Dear Members of the Howell Township Planning Commission,

As a former Livingston County Commissioner and attorney at the renown Butzel Long Law Firm, I am writing to express my full support for the proposed data center development in Howell Township. This project continues the county fiber optic project which I spear headed as a commissioner with CIO Tobbe, and represents a forward-looking investment in our county's economic future. Just like the fiber network as, this project will deliver substantial benefits to our community.

There are several misconceptions that have surfaced regarding data centers. These narratives, while they may be well-intentioned, do not reflect the reality of modern data center operations or their economic impact. Nor do they reflect the commitments of the proposed land users.

Job Creation

This project, plainly, will bring hundreds of jobs to Livingston County in the short and long term—from construction and skilled trades to long-term roles in operations, security, and IT. Additionally, data centers often attract ancillary businesses and service providers, creating a multiplier effect across the local economy.

Economic Value

The taxable value of this project will be significant. The property will move from agricultural tax basis and as such will drive significant revenues from uncapping and also the change in status and value of the property. Livingston County maintains and boast the lowest tax rate in the state. This project will help drive revenues that won't come from the paychecks of our constituents. The revenue planned to also be given back to kids, the schools, and the community can also not be underscored.

Environmental Stewardship

Modern data centers are designed with sustainability in mind. They utilize advanced cooling systems, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient infrastructure. Many operators are committed to carbon neutrality and partner with local utilities to improve grid resilience and sustainability.

Community Integration

Concerns about noise, traffic, or disruption are largely unfounded. Data centers are low-traffic, low-impact facilities with minimal daily activity compared to manufacturing or logistics operations. Their presence is compatible with a wide range of zoning environments and often includes landscaping and architectural features that blend with the surrounding community. The plans for this center are no different, and this should assuage all concerns.

Strategic Infrastructure Investment

This project will bring critical infrastructure upgrades—such as fiber connectivity and power grid enhancements—that benefit not only the data center but also local businesses, schools, and residents. These improvements lay the groundwork for future innovation and economic diversification.

Howell Township has an opportunity to position itself as a leader in digital infrastructure and economic resilience, not only across the state but across the nation. I urge the Planning Commission to approve this project and help usher in a new era of growth, sustainability, and technological leadership that will make Livingston County proud.

Please feel free to contact me for further information or collaboration.

Very truly yours,



Mitchell S. Zajac
Former Liv. Co. Commissioner, District 6

NO to the data center

From Sarah Hall [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:31 AM
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,
Sarah Hall

Sent from my iPhone

NO Data center

From cecle nakas <cecile.nakas@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:35 PM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

To Whom it Concerns:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rezoning Request for the data center project, and to explain my absence from tomorrow's public hearing. I regret that I cannot attend in person due to a prior commitment.

My concerns regarding this project stem from a deep-seated belief that it will negatively impact our community without offering commensurate benefits. The assertion that data centers bring improvements is, in my opinion, unsubstantiated. Instead, I foresee several significant drawbacks, most notably the exacerbation of already rising energy costs in Southeast Michigan. The recent grid improvements, implemented without sufficient community input, have already led to increased expenses for residents, and this data center project would undoubtedly further strain our resources and increase our collective energy burden.

It is imperative that projects of this magnitude receive thorough, transparent, and community-driven evaluation before proceeding, and I believe this has not been the case.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of approving this rezoning request. The short-term economic gains are far outweighed by the potential for negative environmental impact, increased energy costs, and the lack of demonstrable benefit to our community.

Sincerely,

Cecle Finney

Szott M-59 Chrysler Jeep

Office Manager

(248) 529-0699

NO Data center

From ceclie nakas [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:35 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

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Sincerely,
Cecile Finney
Szott M-59 Chrysler Jeep
Office Manager
[REDACTED]

No Data Center!!!

From Lesley Hamadeh [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:36 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Hello,

My name is Lesley Hamadeh and I live at 3682 Sugarbush Dr. in Howell and I am strongly against putting a DATA center in our area!!

No no no!

Thank you for your time!

Sent from my iPhone

Data Center

From Edward White [REDACTED]
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:50 PM
To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Mr. Hohenstein,

I am sure that you all have been bombarded with emails regarding the proposed data center. My apologies, but I need to add yet another one.

My name is Edward White. My wife and I actually live in Handy Twp. (6200 Warner Rd.) but are right on the border of this proposed development.

We would be impacted by the construction noise, dust, traffic, odors, etc.

After completion, we would be impacted by the light pollution and constant 24/7/365 operational hum.

No, I'm not expert on data centers. In fact, I just recently learned what they are.

And what I learned is frightening.

We have lived here for 35 years.

This was my wife's and I first and only home. We raised our two children here.

We have had a great life here.

We put our blood, sweat and tears into those place.

It may be small and basic, but it's ours.

We were planning on living out our lives in this very place.

We are retired now. Our children have homes of their own nearby.

We were enjoying our retirement.....up until now.

If this rezoning is approved and this project is given the green light, our lives will be forever changed.

Our property value will be decimated. Our well with most likely be ruined. Our beautiful country atmosphere will be destroyed. The stars will be blotted out by light pollution. Our tranquility will be replaced by a never ending low frequency hum.

I plan on attending the meeting on Tuesday evening, but fear that I will not be able to voice my concerns due to the crowds.

There are alot of concerned, frightened and angry people, so I can imagine that there will be too many people for that venue.

So I just wanted to make sure that my voice was heard.

I am begging that the township board reject this rezoning request.

Please set the welfare of the citizens as your top priority.

The public has entrusted you all to act in their best interest.

Please put yourself in our shoes.

Imagine if you lived here.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward J White Jr.

6200 Warner Rd

Fowlerville Mi, 48836

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Data Center proposal by SC Develop, LLC

From Lyzelle Dunn [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:56 AM

To Howell Township Inspector <inspector@howelltownshipmi.org>

Please include my comments in full at the Public Hearing to be held September 23, 2025 and recorded as an attachment to the minutes.

The proposed changes to the zoning ordinances by SC Develop, LLC should be completely rejected. Our community needs to preserve its agricultural land, as it's not only part of our heritage, but it has become critical to increase the amount and quality of food we grow within our nation, from an economical and health standpoint. However, I would assert it's even more important to prevent data centers from being built in our communities. Data centers impact far more than the space they take up, with an already strained electrical grid, and the environmental impacts to water and air, and an unfair hit to housing values. People who live near data centers are reporting tainted water and air, anxiety, health and medical issues, plummeted housing values, with little to no chance of selling, increased electrical outages, and drastically increased energy costs. Our electrical grid is not growing to meet the demand of data centers; plants are being retired while there are longer wait times for transformers to be manufactured, so they aren't being replaced at a rate to hold up our current demand, let alone the enormous demand that data centers place on the system. It would be ethically and morally remiss to vote in favor of these changes. Sources cited below.

Sincerely,

Lyzelle Dunn
Pinckney, MI

More Perfect Union. (Sept. 19, 2025) *I Live Next to Amazon's Data Center. They are Stealing our Water.* <https://youtu.be/jjkaYyysYhA?si=AP1vzGVinrLh7ZUC>

More Perfect Union. (May 30, 2025) *We Went to the Town Elon Musk is Poisoning.* <https://youtu.be/3VJT2JeDCyw?si=Vuc4vZoQy0TVtve>

Durden, Tyler. (Sept. 12, 2025) *America's Grid is Nearing its Breaking Point. Zero Hedge.* <https://www.zerohedge.com/energy/americas-grid-nearing-its-breaking-point>

2484 Tooley Rd
Howell, MI 48855
September 17, 2025

Howell Township Board
3525 Byron Rd
Howell, MI 48855

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to you to express my dismay and alarm over Howell Township's upcoming vote on the potential rezoning of land near our home from Agricultural to Science and Technology so a Data Processing Center can be built. I am alarmed because this project can adversely affect our lives here in Howell Township with the large quantities of water and energy required, the noise and increased traffic that would come to our area, and the negative impact on our wildlife. And it's not uncommon to see other DCs being built where one already exists. We urge you to vote NO on the rezoning request. We want to keep our area rural!

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

