

## **Van Wert City Council Public Hearing Minutes of May 4, 2026**

**Location:** First Federal Lecture Hall, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agler, Moore, Hurless, Block, Ringwald, and Johnson were present. Roberts was absent, but previously excused.

The hearing was scheduled, and notice was published in accordance with the Van Wert City Council Rules and the Ohio Revised Code. Written notice was sent more than 30 days prior to the hearing date by regular U.S. Mail and certified U.S. Mail to all adjoining landowners and landowners within the area proposed to be zoned. Eikenbary noted the topic was petition for Conditional Zoning filed with the City of Van Wert requesting that parcel numbers: 17-034718.0000, 33-047500.0000, 12-034459.0000, 17-034718.0100 be zoned I-2 General Industrial District upon annexation into the City of Van Wert, Ohio.

Approximately 200 members of the public were in attendance.

Council President Eikenbary reviewed the procedures for public comment, including that the hearing was for receiving comments only and not a question-and-answer session; each speaker was required to state their name and address for the record; each speaker was limited to two (2) minutes; each individual was permitted one opportunity to address Council; and comments were to be directed to Council and remain relevant to the matters under consideration.

Public comments were received from individuals representing various groups, including residents of the City of Van Wert; residents adjacent to the proposed development site; residents of Van Wert County; and individuals residing outside Van Wert County. Approximately 40 individuals addressed City Council. Written comments were also submitted and are retained in the Clerk's official file.

The hearing proceeded in an orderly manner consistent with Council rules. No individuals required removal for disruption.

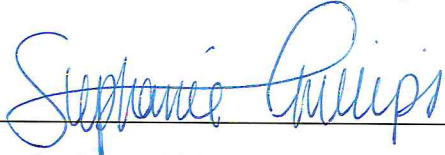
An audio and/or video recording of the public hearing was made and is maintained as part of the official record by the Clerk of Council.

After all individuals wishing to speak were given the opportunity to do so, Council President Eikenbary declared the public hearing closed at 8:03 p.m.

Brent Stevens, Director of Van Wert Area Economic Development then read a list of people who chose to submit written comments. (See attached)

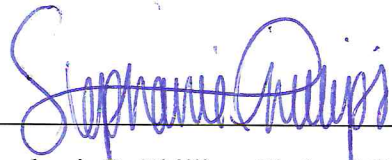
The public hearing was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the public hearing held by the Van Wert City Council on May 4, 2026

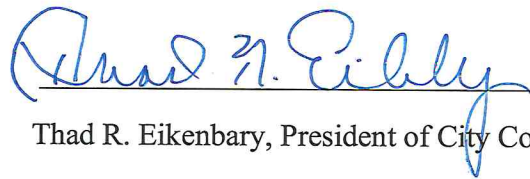


Stephanie R. Phillips, Clerk of City Council

Approved by Council on May 11, 2026



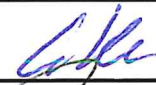


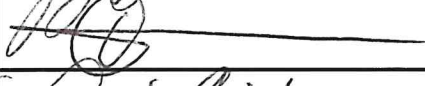

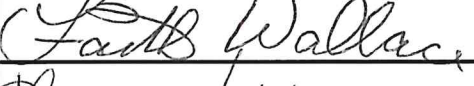
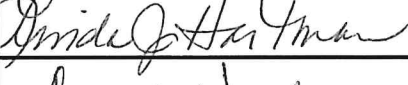




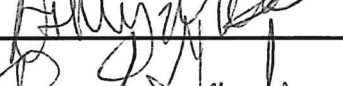

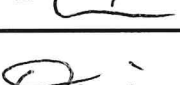
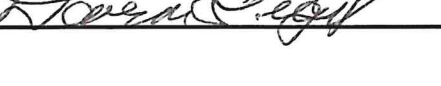
Stephanie R. Phillips, Clerk of City Council



Thad R. Eikenbary, President of City Council


# VAN WERT CITY

May 4, 2026

Name	Address	Signature
✓ 1. CHARLES KOCH	106 W. MAIN ST VAN WERT OH 45891	
✓ 2. RANDY AGGER	1043 MENDOTA RD V.W.O	
✓ 3. Jody Huth	668 N. Walnut St VWO	
✓ 4. ANDY CZAIKOWSKI	4 WARREN RD	
✓ 5. Linda Sidle	510 Chestnut	
✓ 6. Faith Wallace	1014 E. CRAWFORD	
✓ 7. Linda Hartman	1220 E. Ervin Rd., VW	
✓ 8. Cindy Hurless	1066 Roosevelt Ln	
✓ 9. Mark Davis	402 S. Tyler St.	
✓ 10. John Winters	909 Woodland Ave.	
✓ 11. Jon Tomlinson	315 Gordon	
✓ 12. Ashley Matthews	131 E. Sycamore St	
✓ 13. Randy Gardner	132 1/2 Harry St	
✓ 14. Toni Dumbas	628 N. Walnut St.	
✓ 15. Devin Fiegel	525 N. Franklin St.	
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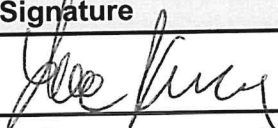

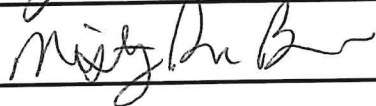
VAN WERT CITY

May 4, 2026

Name	Address	Signature
✓ 1. Jeremy Stalker	649 South Washington St	
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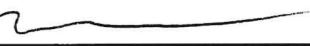




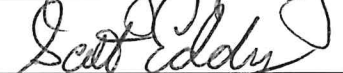






# ADJACENT LANDOWNER

May 4, 2026

Name	Address	Signature
✓ 1. Rice TURNER	818 N. FRANKLIN ST	
✓ 2. Ben Brown	7235 US RT 127	
✗ Misty Brown	7235 US Route 127	
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VAN WERT COUNTY

May 4, 2026

Name	Address	Signature
✓ 1. Brock Boehm	Willshire	
✓ 2. Dave Rorber	Willshire	
✓ X George Saxton	7332 <sup>Van Wert, OH</sup> Mart Rd	
✓ 4. <sup>Roger</sup> Roger Miller	VAN WERT <sup>COLLEGE</sup> AVE	
✓ 5. BREANE <del>Stalder</del>	US 224 VAN WERT	
✓ 6. Kelly Ripley	8847 <sup>Conroy OH</sup> Germann Rd	
✓ 7. Scott Eddy	5731 Converse-Rosdm Rd	
✓ 8. Steve Adam	8970 Liberty Union Vn	
✓ 9. Angie Miller	556 MONTZ RD	
✓ 10. ERICA GALLOWAY	1944 <sup>CONROY OH</sup> CONROY HILL RD 45832	
✓ 11. Jacob McClure	6613 Lincoln Hwy <sup>CONROY OH</sup> 45832	
✓ 12. Van Ripley	8847 <sup>Conroy</sup> Germann Rd OH 45832	
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OUTSIDE OF VAN WERT COUNTY

May 4, 2026

Name	Address	Signature
✓ 1. Brandon Leach	253 Eastwood ave Oregon, OH	
✓ 2. BRIAN ZIZELMAN	5145 STATE ROUTE 117 MORROW, OH	
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## Public Hearing Members of the Public Attendance Sheet

**Topic:** Petition for Conditional Zoning filed with the City of Van Wert requesting that parcel numbers: 17-034718.0000, 33-047500.0000, 12-034459.0000, 17-034718.0100 be zoned I-2 General Industrial District upon annexation into the City of Van Wert, Ohio.

**Date:** 05/04/2026

Name	Address
Kreaton Brown	<del>1021</del> 1308 Woodland Ave Van Wert,
Anthony Adams	1144 E Erus Rd Van Wert
Mark BAILEY	11774 Eagle Run Dr W Ohio 45891
Seth Baker	8115 LIBERTY UNION RD, VW OH 45891
GARY Taylor	1135 S. WALNUT ST, V. W. OH 45891
C. Puro	1024 Maplewood DR. V. W.
Barb Purmort	1024 Maplewood Dr. V.W.
Adam Ellis	667 N Washington St V.W. OH
Amy Ellis	667 N. Washington St V.W. OH
JOY Rice	315 E 3rd St Van Wert.
GARY CLAY	142 WEBSTER AVE UWO
SPINO FOSTER	10294 SIBLE ROAD, VW, OH
Bob Gamble	1297 Willow Ridge Van Wert, OH
Jeffrey M. Grothover	13506 Lincoln Hwy Van Wert, Ohio 45891
SHILEY GARDNER	601 CARROLL DR. DEERFIELD OH 45833
Clay Nofer	5247 HAMISON Center Rd.
Laney Nofer	5247 HAMISON Center Rd.
Lauren Buchanan	420 Wilson Rd. Willshire, OH 45898
Mockison Brown	1308 Woodland Ave. Van Wert OH 45891
Christina Martin	5709 Monmouth Rd Conroy Oh 45892
Kim Fleming	65023 Golden Oaks Dr, VW 45891
Randy Agler	1043 Menoan Rd. V.W.O.
Robin Walthire	333 N Wayne St. V.W.O.
Tammy Agler	3205 Vine St V.W.O.

Name	Address
Kim + Bonnie Hooverman	12005 Mendon Rd. VW, OH
Sydney Etling	1044 Chippewa Dr VWOH
Donna F. Poling	1044 Chippewa DR VWOH
Theresa Marshall	327 S. Tyler St. V.W.O.
Rick Boley	733 Woodland Ave V.W.O
Paul Kelly	609 Oak St Convoy Ohio
ANN KIRKENDALL	303 S. Shannon St Van Wert
Linna Kelly	609 Oak St Convoy OH 45832
Ted Kelly	608 South Tyler St.
DAVID MARTZ	18243 Lincoln Hwy
CERANU LINSEK	433 CHERRY ST
Jacey Eikenbary	1075 Earfield St. VW
Michelle Gorman	7955 Slane Rd VW
Tina Decker	9801 Tomblison Rd VW
Nancy Hurd	215 N. Walnut St. VW
Vicki England	7987 Boroff Rd VW
Amanda Barnett	1006 Purser, St
Claudia Valley	1212 Davin St
Peta J. Chappan	1217 LEESON AVE.
Mark Davis	407 Styler VW
Trey Evans	12442 Ireland Rd, VW, OH
Destin Figley	6646 Monmouth Rd Van Wert, OH.
Avery Figley	6646 Monmouth Rd Van Wert OH. 45821
Bill Evans	12442 Ireland Rd Van Wert
Jenny Eikenbary	6508 Golden Oaks # 2
Verona Eikenbary	6508 Golden Oaks Van Wert OH
Kim Clouse	728 Virginia Ave Van Wert, OH
DANE Clouse	728 Virginia Ave, VAN WERT, Ohio
Tessa Ruggible	137 Kepler St Van Wert, Ohio

Name	Address
Glenn Sanders	7313 US 127
Paula Sanders	7313 US 127
ERIK Price	517 Hillcrest DR.
John Myers	4623 RD117 Haviland, Ohio
Carlee Kroeger	1315 E Ervin Rd, Van Wert
Brent Steven	12892 Glennone RD
JEFF KALLAS	1343 RYE Dr, VAN WERT
Joanne Goldhand	90 W. 2nd Ave, Cos, OH
JAMES McCLURE	9405 FEASBY WISNER RD CONVOY OH 45832
Yvonne McClure	9405 Feasby Wisner Rd ConvoY OH 45832
PLEASANT SHORES <sup>Waterski</sup> <sub>CLUB</sub>	8386 MARSH RD VAN WERT OH - Sam us McClure
Ashley Matthews	131 E Sycamore St Van Wert
Ashley Brehm	563 S. Chestnut St. VW, OH
Angie Miller	ConvoY, OH 45832
Brock Roehm	27152 <sup>nd</sup> OH
Concerned citizen	USA
Cassandra Merkle	ConvoY, OH NO DATA CENTER
Ashley Showalter	503 N. Jefferson St. VW
Jue Gerker	517 W Second St. Delphos
TRICIA + Steve BERRYMAN	10480 Ridgely Rd VW, OH 45891
Jason Crone	P.O. Box 3 Van Wert, Ohio
Brad Etter	1038 Rosemont Dr, Van Wert OH 45891
Aaron Underhill	8000 Walton Pkwy, New Albany, OH
Allen + Ellen Rager	1010 Cadillac Dr., Van Wert, OH
Nick White	1000 Merry Ln. Van Wert, OH
Jeremy Stoller	649 South Washington Street
Tim Stoller	10 Warren Road VW OH 45891
Jason Buehner	Van Wert
Paula Zeman	56117 Music Road





## AEP Ohio Testimony to Van Wert City Council

### Data Center Public Hearing

May 4, 2026

#### Testimony from Zach Miller, Director of Economic Development and Data Center Integration for AEP Ohio

Van Wert City Council, thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. My name is Zach Miller, and I am the director of economic development and data center integration for AEP Ohio.

At a high level, the electric grid has three main parts:

- Generation, the power plants and solar farms where electricity is produced. Ohio electric utilities are legally prohibited from owning generation. The state has become a net importer of electricity, and these prices are set by the market based on supply and demand across multiple states.
- Transmission, which transports power long distances — sometimes hundreds of miles.
- Distribution, which is the local system that AEP Ohio builds, maintains and operates to deliver electricity to homes and businesses.

Each plays a role in keeping power safe, reliable and affordable.

As you know, demand for electricity is growing, including from large load customers like data centers. That growth brings opportunity, and it requires diligent planning to make sure existing customers are protected.

A few years ago, we saw a challenge emerging. Developers were requesting very large amounts of power — more than we suspected they might ultimately use — with no real consequences if those projections did not materialize. That created a risk that infrastructure could be built ahead of actual need.

So, AEP Ohio paused new load studies as we developed a new Data Center Tariff that was approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio last summer — one of the first policies of its kind in the country.

That framework does a few important things:

- It requires more accurate forecasts from developers.
- It reduces speculative projects.
- It places financial accountability on large customers if they use less electricity than they estimated.

The impact has been significant. Early interest totaled more than 30,000 megawatts of potential demand. Today, projects estimating 5,342 MW have advanced to signed agreements, demonstrating that projects are being right-sized and vetted before moving forward.



More importantly, this approach ensures new large load customers are making meaningful financial commitments that help ensure they contribute appropriately to the infrastructure needed to serve them, while supporting continued reliability for all customers.

At AEP Ohio, our commitment to delivering reliable, affordable electricity requires us to plan carefully and keep customers at the center of every decision we make. That includes adapting to new types of demand in ways that are thoughtful, transparent and grounded in long-term value.

Thank you again for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions.



**Van Wert Area Economic Development**

Att.: Brent Stevens  
140 E. Main St.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

Wade R. Adamson  
Senior Director, Americas Operations

Mobile: 260-235-0758

Wade.adamson@danfoss.com

19 March 2026

Our reference / Subject

Data Center Job Growth

Dear Brent

The data center industry is a rapidly growing market that supports an entire ecosystem of suppliers and service providers. For Danfoss, this space is a powerful engine of growth—creating meaningful opportunities for the communities where our products are designed and manufactured.

We are extremely proud that our fluid conveyance solutions are best-in-class and leading the market in innovation, quality, and availability. For Van Wert specifically, the growth of the data center industry translates directly into job creation. Our expanding data center product line is expected to generate 53 new direct jobs at our Van Wert operation, along with additional indirect employment opportunities across distribution and supporting services.

We are proud to be building this capacity right here in Van Wert and excited about what lies ahead as the data center industry continues to expand.

Yours sincerely

Wade R. Adamson



# CITY of VAN WERT

515 EAST MAIN STREET • VAN WERT, OHIO 45891

[www.vanwert.org](http://www.vanwert.org)

"Vincit Amor Patrias"

The Love of Country Conquers

KENNETH J. MARKWARD  
MAYOR  
419-238-0308

JAY C. FLEMING  
SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR  
419-238-1237

April 21, 2026

For Immediate Release:

At the most recent City Council meeting, questions and rumors surfaced regarding the proposed Van Wert data center and its potential impact on our local water supply. Citizens deserve clear, factual answers, and as the official responsible for managing the City of Van Wert's water system, I want to provide them directly.

**First**, the data center will **not** draw municipal water or rely on a well for its day-to-day cooling operations. The developers have not requested ongoing water from the city for this purpose. Instead, the facility will use a closed-loop cooling system—similar to a car radiator. A sealed mixture of water and glycol (an environmentally safe antifreeze) will circulate continuously through the building, absorb heat from the servers, pass through a heat exchanger to cool, and then return to the servers. Because the fluid remains sealed inside the system, there is no continuous or daily consumption of water from our supply. The building will use a modest amount of municipal water for routine needs such as restrooms and staff areas, but this represents only normal operational use.

**Second**, there will be a one-time initial fill of the closed-loop system. The city will sell the developers approximately 660,000 gallons of water for this purpose—the equivalent of filling a single Olympic-sized swimming pool. This is a one-time transaction required only at startup.

**Third**, our community's water supply remains strong and well-positioned to support both existing residents and responsible new development. Our reservoir is currently more than 85% full, and we maintain an excess daily treatment and distribution capacity of approximately 2 million gallons.

Van Wert has the infrastructure and resources to welcome this new business while continuing to protect and responsibly manage our water supply for all residents. For additional details, I encourage everyone to visit the dedicated project website at [www.vanwertohiodatacenter.com](http://www.vanwertohiodatacenter.com), which provides further facts and answers to common questions. I am also personally available to address any concerns about the city's water operations.

Thank you,

Jay C. Fleming  
Safety Service Director

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*Van Wert County  
Commissioners*

Thad Lichtensteiger  
Stan D. Owens  
Todd D. Wolfrum

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114 E. Main Street, Suite 200  
Van Wert, Ohio 45891  
Phone: 419-238-6159  
Fax: 419-238-4528

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Ryanne Bollenbacher, Clerk

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May 4, 2026

I am 100% for the Data Center! I truly believe that they are the "brass ring" with respect to Economic Development opportunities. Data Centers are soft on the environment (no smokestacks, no PCB's or chemical residues, no wastewater or effluent) and it will bring us a couple of hundred jobs. Granted, it's not a thousand jobs, but if a company wanted a thousand factory workers, they wouldn't stop here anyway because we couldn't supply them. The investment will be in the billions and it will quite likely attract ancillary businesses. The cooling loop system uses less than a half a day's water for the City of Van Wert (700,000 gallons of the city's 1.6 million daily consumption), and that will last for 6 to 8 years. Someone that says differently just doesn't know the facts here. They do use a lot of electricity, but Thor is paying through the nose to get the upgrades needed: that cost is \$72 million. I know that it's a big change, but it's what we need if we want to keep Van Wert alive, prosperous and on the map. I've got 14 grandkids, and I'd love to have a place for them back here.

I'm for the Data Center... you should be too!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thad Lichtensteiger", written in a cursive style.

Thad Lichtensteiger

Van Wert County Commissioner

**VAN WERT AREA  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**



To the members of Van Wert City Council,

My name is Lauren Buchanan, and I serve as the Workforce Development Manager for the Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation and run Van Wert Works. Every day, my job is centered around one question: *How do we ensure Van Wert County remains a place where people can build meaningful careers without feeling like they have to leave home to find opportunity?*

Van Wert County has a strong legacy in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, and logistics, but the reality is that communities that remain competitive are the ones willing to evolve alongside emerging industries. Data center infrastructure is not a trend. It's a critical part of how businesses, hospitals, schools, and consumers operate every single day. That is why I support the proposed data center project.

This project creates an opportunity to diversify our local economy with highly-skilled, high-wage careers in areas such as IT, electrical systems, HVAC, facilities management, cybersecurity, engineering, and network operations. Beyond the direct jobs created by the facility itself, data centers generate significant demand for construction workers, maintenance professionals, transportation providers, security personnel, landscapers, and sanitation services.

Even more importantly, our education partners are prepared for this future. Northwest State Community College, Vantage Career Center and our local K-12 school districts have already expressed a willingness to align programming and training opportunities to help students and adult workers build the technical skills these careers require.

Too often, rural communities lose talented young people because they believe opportunity only exists elsewhere. In fact, that was me until 2021 when I moved home to take care of my mom after 10 years working in large cities across the Midwest. Ongoing investment in this region has helped change the narrative, and I want to see the momentum continue.

Van Wert deserves the chance to compete, grow, and prepare our workforce for the careers of tomorrow while keeping opportunity close to home. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren Buchanan, Workforce Development Manager | 140 E. Main Street Van Wert, OH 45891

# Data Center Should Come to Van Wert

I want to say that I support the data center coming to Van Wert for the multitude of good reasons that have been laid out throughout this process: jobs, industry, growth, data center driven community development, and tax revenue, to name a few.

As far as concerns, some thoughts:

1. The first time I heard about the data center was almost two years ago by Brent Stevens. Even then, the two issues he brought up that were a concern were power and water. From the start this was a concern out in the open. Even hearing Brent speak almost two years ago he emphasized how he wanted to make sure this did not hurt the community. Per the team of local individuals that have been working on this directly with the developers, and who have done real world site visits, they have assured us that Van Wert power and water will not be detrimentally affected by this data center. So the issue boils down to trust as far as I am concerned.
2. This brings me to my second point: a certain demographic of people in our community almost need this entire endeavor to be corrupt. It is as if they want it to be corrupt, which is *unfortunate*. This is an *out working of our particular cultural moment of a fascination with buttoned up conspiracy theories that come straight from the movies, and also a fear of the complex reality of life, which is often random, confusing, and far too boring than an exciting and terrifying conspiracy theory that is easy to understand that creates a boogymen out to get the locals.*
3. This leads me to my third point: those individuals who have been responsible for bringing the data center to our community are our neighbors, many of them I know directly or through trusted family and friends. They have lived here for years, and many were born and raised here. Van Wert is and continues to be a lifelong Home. They are not Big Brother sadistically excited to make money and destroy their own community and homes in the process. They drink the same water we do and pay the same bills as us. This isn't Stranger Things. They want this data center to be successful, to help the community, and more importantly be safe and environmentally healthy in the process. Incidentally, why would a company want to spend 10 billion dollars just so it could destroy a community and ultimately fail?
4. What I am getting at is motive. Those against the data center assume a corrupt and nefarious motive behind the process. I am suggesting this is unfair, unkind, and rather ridiculous. It also doesn't make sense as I hope to have explained above. Now, because life is complex, there certainly could be untoward and unforeseen consequences of this data center. But again, no one wants this project to fail. They want it to succeed. As with any endeavor, when something bad happens, those involved do what is necessary to identify the

problem, name it, fix it, and make sure it doesn't happen again. If we can allow this to happen in our current community with all the current businesses and farms, then why cannot we allow this to happen with the data center?

5. Finally, back in the 90s my parents taught me not to believe everything I read on the internet. For some reason collectively we have forgotten this in our current time. Doing your own research is fraught with danger, especially on complicated realities like data centers. I would argue the good people behind bringing the data center to Van Wert have more valuable insight and worthwhile information, by means of direct interaction with those involved in data centers and other communities that have them, than any of us who do our own research on the Wild West internet and think we have discovered the Truth. Let's get off our screens and talk to real people, with the right knowledge and experience, in person.

The reality of data centers is complex, and there are pros and cons to anything in life that is complex, and no one knows the future.

Indeed, our way of life, for better or worse, demands data centers. The infinite world of the Screen at your fingertips - with streaming TV, social media, videos, news, and now the developing world of Artificial Intelligence, and all the "do your own research" we have done at home to tell us why data centers are both good and bad - has been brought to you by the friendly neighborhood data center - whether we like it or not.

However, I encourage everyone to believe the best and trust those individuals that have done due diligence in making sure the data center overall helps our community. This is an exciting opportunity for Van Wert!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stoller", followed by the date "5/11/21".

Jeremy Stoller

649 S. Washington St.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed data center in Van Wert. This project would be a great long-term investment for the community, and the developers have shown thoughtful and transparent planning. Throughout the process, the developers have listened to and considered the residents' concerns, which has led to this project being a mutually beneficial arrangement.

The data center will provide 200-250 high-paying permanent jobs and provide investment in our community for schools and roads. Additionally, the project will generate 1000-1500 construction jobs and has been designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind.

The data center utilizes a closed loop cooling system, meaning it will not be a constant drain on our water supply and instead will only need an initial input of water. Additionally, the data center will not strain our local power grid and will instead pull from a new private line, built from a station specifically for this site.

Lastly, this site has been set aside for industrial use since 2007. This kind of project has been in the city's long-term vision for decades. This project is a perfect opportunity to capitalize on that vision in a beneficial way for the community and position Van Wert well for the future.

I strongly encourage your support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

7079 Madden Rd.  
Waynesfield, OH 45896

Dear Members of Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express support for the proposed \$10 billion data center project. This investment would bring hundreds of high-paying jobs to Van Wert while generating hundreds of millions in long-term community revenue. Developments of this scale can serve as a catalyst for sustained economic growth, not only strengthening local infrastructure and expanding opportunities for residents and small businesses, but also attracting additional growth as that growth manifests.

The project's commitment to sourcing local labor and materials, along with workforce partnerships such as Vantage Career Center, ensures that these benefits remain rooted in the community. With each data center job expected to support approximately 3.5 additional jobs, the broader economic impact will be significant. Just as importantly, creating stable, well-paying careers locally helps ensure that young people can build their futures in Van Wert rather than seeking opportunities elsewhere.

This project is a win-win for Van Wert and Ohio. I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

*Sharon A. Blank*  
*1015 Maplewood Dr.*  
*Van Wert, Ohio 45891*

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project and the broader message it sends about Van Wert's future. Approving a development of this scale communicates clearly that our community is prepared to welcome responsible, forward-looking investment.

Large projects like this do more than provide immediate economic benefits—they establish credibility. When a community successfully attracts and supports a major investment, it demonstrates to other companies and industries that it has the infrastructure, leadership, and vision necessary for long-term growth.

This data center has the potential to serve as an anchor for additional development. Companies that rely on digital infrastructure often cluster near data centers, and suppliers, service providers, and complementary businesses may follow. Over time, this can create an ecosystem of innovation and economic activity that extends far beyond the initial project.

The projected \$200 million in community revenue over 20 years will also provide the financial foundation needed to support future growth. With stronger schools, improved infrastructure, and well-funded public services, Van Wert becomes an even more attractive place to live and invest.

Turning away an opportunity like this could make it more difficult to attract similar investments in the future. On the other hand, supporting it positions our community as forward-thinking and open to progress.

This is not just about one project—it is about setting the tone for the next generation of economic development in Van Wert.

Sincerely,

*George Noggle*  
*1048 Maplewood DR*  
*Van Wert Ohio 45891*

My name is Jon Tomlinson. I am a lifelong resident of Van Wert, a former 10-year member of Van Wert City Council, including 2 terms as Council President, and current board member of the Business Development Corporation. Having been in a number of educational meetings and even traveling with others to tour data centers in central Ohio, I believe the proposed Van Wert Data Center is a forward-looking investment that has the ability to strengthen the local economy by creating jobs, expanding the tax base, and attracting complementary businesses to our hometown. For many years various levels of leadership in Van Wert have worked to grow and retain talent, and a project such as this data center can be a catalyst to that goal. Personally, I'm excited and a bit jealous at the same time. I'm excited that nearly 2 decades of economic development work has finally come to fruition, resulting in the first of I hope many investments in Van Wert's mega site. I am equally jealous of the current members on city council – I'd love to have one more vote to solidify the kind of progress we as a community have long worked toward. Make no mistake, opportunities like this don't come often, and it's critical we act decisively to secure a strong future for our community. Remember, any hesitation with an investment opportunity like this can lead to decades of regret. It took more than 110 years for Van Wert to get another chance at a public college after we lost to Bowling Green, Ohio for a state funded university.

Sincerely,

Jon C. Tomlinson, Ph.D.

**VAN WERT AREA**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT**



**Brent Stevens**

Executive Director of Van Wert Area Economic Development]

140 East Main Street

Van Wert, 45891

5-4-2026

**Re: Strong Support for the Proposed \$10 Billion Data Center Project by Thor Equities**

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Director of Van Wert Area Economic Development to express my strongest possible support for the proposed \$10 billion data center project. As the individual who first sourced this opportunity more than two years ago, I have personally overseen an extensive vetting process involving over 25 different data center groups that expressed interest in our community.

After thorough evaluation, Thor Equities has proven to be an exceptionally solid and professional partner throughout the development process. Their commitment to collaboration and responsiveness has been outstanding. More importantly, they have successfully identified an end user that represents the very best in the data center industry — one that fully aligns with the priorities and values of our community.

This project stands out because it directly addresses the key concerns Van Wert has emphasized from the beginning. The proposed facility will utilize advanced **closed-loop cooling systems**, eliminating the need for evaporative cooling and significantly reducing water usage. Noise mitigation measures have been prioritized to ensure minimal impact on neighboring properties, and the project avoids unnecessary drilling of wells. These design choices reflect a level of environmental and community stewardship that is unmatched among the many proposals we reviewed.

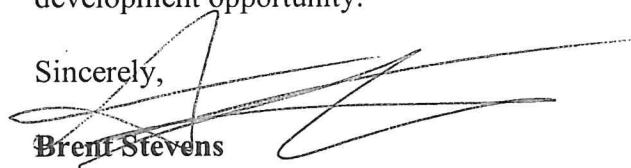
Beyond the substantial economic benefits — including job creation, tax base expansion, and infrastructure investment — I am particularly excited about the meaningful community partnership this end user is prepared to build with us. This project represents a transformative opportunity for our town, and the developer and end user have demonstrated a genuine desire to be a long-term, responsible neighbor.

To move forward successfully, it is essential that we demonstrate to this exceptional partner that our community is united in its willingness to support a project of this scale and quality. I strongly urge City Council to approve the necessary incentives, zoning, and permitting to bring this landmark development to Van Wert.

I am confident this project will deliver lasting prosperity while respecting the character and priorities of our community. I stand ready to provide any additional information or answer any questions as you consider this important decision.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of this transformative economic development opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Stevens", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

**Brent Stevens**

Van Wert Area Economic Executive Director of Economic Development

Dear Members of the Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote in support of the proposed data center project. One of the most compelling reasons to approve this development is the significant strengthening of our local tax base that it will provide over time.

With an estimated \$200 million in community revenue over the next 20 years, this project offers a stable and predictable funding source for essential services. Schools, emergency services, and infrastructure all depend on reliable funding, and this type of long-term revenue can reduce the need for future tax increases on residents. In many communities, large-scale developments like this have helped ease the financial burden on homeowners while still improving public services.

Beyond direct revenue, the presence of a major data center can also increase surrounding property values and attract additional commercial investment. A stronger tax base benefits everyone by creating a more financially secure and resilient community.

This is a practical, forward-looking opportunity to improve Van Wert's financial health while maintaining affordability for residents. I respectfully urge you to vote yes and support this project.

Sincerely,

*Syfan D. Owens*

*5409 monmouth*

*Conroy, Ohio 45832*

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center and to encourage you to vote in favor of it. Approving this project sends a powerful message that Van Wert is open for business and ready to compete for modern economic opportunities.

In today's economy, communities must actively position themselves to attract investment. By supporting a project of this scale, the City Council demonstrates that Van Wert has the leadership, infrastructure, and vision needed to welcome large employers. This kind of reputation matters—it influences whether other companies consider our community for future projects.

Data centers, in particular, are known for bringing stable, long-term investment without placing heavy demands on local services. They operate efficiently, employ skilled workers, and contribute significant tax revenue. That combination makes them attractive anchors for broader economic development.

A vote in favor of this project is not just a vote for one facility—it is a vote for a more competitive, business-friendly future for Van Wert.

Sincerely,



700 Fox Road  
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to encourage your support for the Van Wert data center project because of the long-term stability it offers. Many economic opportunities provide short-term gains, but this project stands out for its sustained impact over decades.

Data centers are long-term investments by nature. Once built, they continue operating for many years, providing steady employment and consistent tax revenue. This stability is especially valuable for smaller communities, where economic fluctuations can have a larger impact.

The projected combination of construction jobs, permanent employment, and ongoing revenue creates a balanced economic benefit that supports both immediate needs and future growth.

By voting yes, you are helping to secure a stable and predictable economic foundation for Van Wert.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a 'B' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the Van Wert data center project, as it reflects thoughtful planning, responsible development, and strong community protections.

The site has been designated and pre-annexed for industrial use since 2007, demonstrating that this type of project has long been part of the city's vision. The development also includes significant infrastructure improvements funded by the operator, including road upgrades and power transmission enhancements—without increasing residential utility costs.

Additionally, the facility will use modern, efficient technology such as a closed-loop cooling system that minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local municipal supplies. With oversight from multiple regulatory agencies, the project prioritizes safety, environmental responsibility, and transparency.

This project aligns with Van Wert's long-term planning and represents smart, forward-looking growth for the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Clay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

amy clay

To the Citizens and Leaders of Van Wert,

My family and I have called Van Wert home since 1993, when we purchased the former Bob Dunn Ford dealership. Over the past three decades, I have had the privilege of serving this community in many capacities—18 years on the Van Wert County Hospital Board, including three years as Chair; as a Rotary member and current President; Past President of the Van Wert Business Development Corporation; and as a leader and participant in numerous capital campaigns, including the Niswonger Performing Arts Center, the Van Wert Airport FBO project, the Van Wert County Hospital ER project, multiple BDC campaigns, and the United Way Annual Campaign.

These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for what makes Van Wert special—and what it takes for a community not just to survive, but to grow and prosper.

Today, we are faced with an opportunity that will shape the future of our community: the proposed data center project. I want to clearly state my support for this project, for our community leaders, and for continued economic development in Van Wert.

This is more than a single project. It is a test of who we are as a community.

We have engaged with this investor. We have made commitments—to annex the land, to update zoning from agricultural to industrial, and to create an environment where investment can take root. If we fail to follow through on those commitments, we are sending a message—not just to this developer, but to every future opportunity—that Van Wert cannot be relied upon.

Communities that grow and prosper do so because they are willing to act with vision, consistency, and integrity. Communities that hesitate, reverse course, or fail to honor their commitments risk being left behind.

This project represents:

- Significant capital investment in our region
- Expanded tax base to support schools, infrastructure, and public services
- Construction and long-term economic activity
- A chance to position Van Wert as part of the modern digital economy

Just as importantly, it represents momentum.

For decades, many of us have worked to build a stronger Van Wert—through healthcare, education, the arts, infrastructure, and economic development. This opportunity aligns with that long-term effort. It is a continuation of the work that so many have invested in for years.

I also want to express my support for our local leaders who have worked to bring this project forward. Leadership requires making decisions that are not always easy, but are necessary for long-term success. They deserve our support as they guide Van Wert through this important moment.

The question before us is simple:

If not us, who?

If not now, when?

This is our chance to move forward. Let's not miss the opportunity.

Sincerely,

*Andy*

**J. Andrew Czajkowski**  
**President**  
**Statewide Ford Lincoln**  
**1108 W. Main St.**  
**Van Wert, OH 45891**  
**419.238.0125**  
**[www.statewideford.com](http://www.statewideford.com)**

Dear members of City Council,

I think it is important for us to bring responsive, neighborly investment to our town. This data center project has checked each of those boxes for me thus far. I want to highlight that we have known about this project since January 2025 and that we have had multiple opportunities to share our feedback with City Council and the community. That feedback has already resulted in beneficial changes to the project, such as the changes to Mendon Road and Bonnewitz Crossing to help with traffic concerns.

The developer remains transparent now. They have answered the questions from City Council and published them both physically and digitally. They have answered additional questions through their website. They have made every effort to give the facts about this project and demonstrate that they want to be a part of our community for the long term.

By welcoming this project to our community, we will bring in new jobs, public revenue, job training programs, and an involved developer that is responsive to our needs. This is the kind of investment towns dream of, and Van Wert has the opportunity to secure it.

Please vote in favor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Price". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Anita Price

Dear members of City Council,

I think it is important for us to bring responsive, neighborly investment to our town. This data center project has checked each of those boxes for me thus far. I want to highlight that we have known about this project since January 2025 and that we have had multiple opportunities to share our feedback with City Council and the community. That feedback has already resulted in beneficial changes to the project, such as the changes to Mendon Road and Bonnewitz Crossing to help with traffic concerns.

The developer remains transparent now. They have answered the questions from City Council and published them both physically and digitally. They have answered additional questions through their website. They have made every effort to give the facts about this project and demonstrate that they want to be a part of our community for the long term.

By welcoming this project to our community, we will bring in new jobs, public revenue, job training programs, and an involved developer that is responsive to our needs. This is the kind of investment towns dream of, and Van Wert has the opportunity to secure it.

Please vote in favor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Gaytan".

Anthony Gaytan

Dear Council,

Communities across the country are competing for major investments like this one. Supporting the Van Wert data center ensures that our region remains competitive and capable of attracting large-scale development.

Turning away opportunities like this could send the wrong message to future investors. Approving it demonstrates that Van Wert is open to growth and prepared for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arlene Dudgeon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arlene Dudgeon

Dear members of City Council,

I think it is important for us to bring responsive, neighborly investment to our town. This data center project has checked each of those boxes for me thus far. I want to highlight that we have known about this project since January 2025 and that we have had multiple opportunities to share our feedback with City Council and the community. That feedback has already resulted in beneficial changes to the project, such as the changes to Mendon Road and Bonnewitz Crossing to help with traffic concerns.

The developer remains transparent now. They have answered the questions from City Council and published them both physically and digitally. They have answered additional questions through their website. They have made every effort to give the facts about this project and demonstrate that they want to be a part of our community for the long term.

By welcoming this project to our community, we will bring in new jobs, public revenue, job training programs, and an involved developer that is responsive to our needs. This is the kind of investment towns dream of, and Van Wert has the opportunity to secure it.

Please vote in favor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Showalter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Ashley Showalter

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the data center project in Van Wert. This is a data center project that has been thoughtfully planned to benefit our community and not drain our resources. There has been a lot of transparency in response to community questions, which makes me confident that this is a project that will truly benefit Van Wert.

Concerns that people may have about data centers have been addressed. Water use will be minimized through a closed-loop cooling system that will reuse water instead of continuously pumping in new water. Infrastructure upgrades will be paid for by the data center. The local power grid will not be burdened because the data center will have its own power line connecting it to the grid. Noise and light pollution will be mitigated through design elements.

The project's benefits to the community include 200-250 permanent high-paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, and \$200 million for the community that can go to things like schools and roads. These are long-term investments that would strengthen Van Wert going into the future.

Lastly, this land was annexed for industrial use in 2007. It has always been the vision to bring a large industrial project to Van Wert, and this Data Center is a great opportunity to do so.

I strongly encourage you to support this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Sinn".

Ashley Sinn

Dear Council Members,

I appreciate the attention given to safety and planning in the proposed data center project. Features such as advanced fire suppression systems, professional security, and traffic management planning demonstrate a commitment to protecting the community.

These considerations show that the project has been thoughtfully designed with both efficiency and safety in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bailey neuenschwander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Bailey neuenschwander

Dear Members of the Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center development in Van Wert. This project represents a transformative opportunity for our community, with an investment exceeding \$10 billion. Opportunities of this magnitude are rare, especially for a community of our size, and they deserve careful consideration with an eye toward long-term prosperity.

The projected \$200 million in community revenue over the next 20 years will provide meaningful and sustained support for our schools, public safety services, and infrastructure improvements. This type of revenue can reduce pressure on local taxpayers while enhancing the quality of life for residents.

In addition, the creation of 200 to 250 permanent, high-paying jobs—with average salaries around \$80,000—will provide stable career paths for local residents. The construction phase alone is expected to generate up to 1,500 jobs, bringing immediate economic activity to the area.

This project is not speculative or out of place—it aligns with nearly two decades of planning for the Van Wert Megasite, which has been designated for industrial use since 2007. Supporting this project is consistent with the vision our community has already embraced.

I encourage the Council to support this development and help position Van Wert for long-term economic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Laing', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Robert Laing

Dear City Council,

This project represents an important opportunity to strengthen Van Wert's local economy. By prioritizing the use of local labor and materials, the development ensures that the economic impact begins immediately and supports businesses within our region. The scale of investment—\$10 billion—will generate both short-term construction jobs and long-term operational roles.

The multiplier effect of job creation cannot be overstated. With each data center job supporting additional employment in the community, the benefits will extend far beyond the facility itself. This kind of growth helps create a more resilient and diverse local economy.

Please ensure we receive these benefits by voting in favor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Candy Lammers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Candy Lammers

Dear Council Members,

One of the most encouraging aspects of this project is its focus on workforce development. Collaboration with institutions like Vantage Career Center will provide students with valuable training and direct pathways into high-quality careers. This aligns education with real-world opportunities in a meaningful way.

Keeping talent in Van Wert is essential for our long-term success. When young people can find well-paying, stable jobs close to home, they are more likely to stay, raise families, and contribute to the community. This project supports that vision and strengthens our future.

I ask that you support bringing this development to Van Wert

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ch. D. Mengerink". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "C" and a distinct "M" at the end.

charles d mengerink

Dear members of City Council,

I think it is important for us to bring responsive, neighborly investment to our town. This data center project has checked each of those boxes for me thus far. I want to highlight that we have known about this project since January 2025 and that we have had multiple opportunities to share our feedback with City Council and the community. That feedback has already resulted in beneficial changes to the project, such as the changes to Mendon Road and Bonnewitz Crossing to help with traffic concerns.

The developer remains transparent now. They have answered the questions from City Council and published them both physically and digitally. They have answered additional questions through their website. They have made every effort to give the facts about this project and demonstrate that they want to be a part of our community for the long term.

By welcoming this project to our community, we will bring in new jobs, public revenue, job training programs, and an involved developer that is responsive to our needs. This is the kind of investment towns dream of, and Van Wert has the opportunity to secure it.

Please vote in favor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Linton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chris Linton

Dear Council Members,

One of the most encouraging aspects of this project is its focus on workforce development. Collaboration with institutions like Vantage Career Center will provide students with valuable training and direct pathways into high-quality careers. This aligns education with real-world opportunities in a meaningful way.

Keeping talent in Van Wert is essential for our long-term success. When young people can find well-paying, stable jobs close to home, they are more likely to stay, raise families, and contribute to the community. This project supports that vision and strengthens our future.

I ask that you support bringing this development to Van Wert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Martin". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest of the letters.

Christina Martin

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project in Van Wert. This project represents a responsible and appropriate use of land that has already been designated for industrial purposes since 2007, aligning well with the city's long-term planning and development goals.

The fact that this site has been zoned for industrial use for nearly two decades demonstrates clear foresight by community leaders to accommodate projects of this nature. A data center is not only consistent with that designation, but it is also one of the more modern, efficient, and low-impact forms of industrial development available today. Compared to traditional industrial operations, data centers typically generate less traffic, lower emissions, and minimal noise, making them a strong fit for the area.

In addition to being an appropriate land use, this project brings meaningful benefits to Van Wert. It represents a forward-looking investment that can strengthen the city's infrastructure, diversify its economic base, and reinforce its role in supporting digital innovation. The development also signals to other companies that Van Wert is a community that respects its planning framework and is open to responsible growth.

Supporting this data center is not just about a single project—it is about honoring the city's established land-use decisions and embracing opportunities that align with them in a thoughtful and productive way.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the approval and support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ciara Peters', written in a cursive style.

Ciara Peters

Dear members of the Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to voice my support for the data center project in Van Wert. This project is the perfect opportunity for Van Wert to capitalize on the growth of Data Centers in a beneficial way for the community while also being environmentally responsible.

Data centers are an inevitable part of the future and it would be a mistake to not let Van Wert benefit from this growing area. This project would provide 200-250 high paying permanent jobs as well as 1000-1500 construction jobs. It would also provide \$200 million in local revenue for important services and infrastructure such as schools and roads.

The data center would use a closed loop cooling system which would minimize its impact on water in our community. It would also pull from its own electricity supply so it would not be a burden to the local power grid. Further it would produce little noise or light pollution so it would not be a disturbance to the community.

Overall, this project is a thoughtful investment in the future of Van Wert that is the right kind of opportunity the city should want to seize on to position us well for the future as well as be responsible to the environment and community.



Clair Dudgeon

Dear City Council,

I am writing to show my support for data centers in our community.

Modern data centers are more efficient than their predecessors, and as a result more environmentally conscious. A great example of this is the adaptation of the closed water loop system to cool the machinery. Data centers now only need to collect water once, meaning they reuse water extremely efficiently.

Additionally, it is important that our city takes advantage of the investments offered and future tax revenue that data centers bring. Our city has the chance to gain billions in planned investment and collect millions in tax revenue. This is a significant opportunity to improve Van Wert's income without raising taxes on households.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connie Ainsworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie S. Ainsworth

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of the proposed Van Wert data center because of the meaningful workforce opportunities it will bring to our region. One of the biggest challenges facing smaller communities like ours is retaining skilled workers and providing career paths that allow young people to stay and thrive locally.

This project directly addresses that challenge by offering 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages averaging around \$80,000 per year. These are not temporary or low-skill jobs—they are careers in a growing, future-focused industry.

Beyond the direct employment, the economic ripple effect cannot be overlooked. Each data center job is expected to support additional jobs in related industries such as maintenance, logistics, retail, and professional services. This multiplier effect strengthens the entire local economy.

The construction phase will also create significant short-term employment, with up to 1,500 jobs supporting tradespeople, contractors, and suppliers.

This is exactly the type of development that builds a resilient workforce and ensures long-term stability for families in Van Wert.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory J. Mohr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cory" being the most prominent part.

Cory J. Mohr

Dear Council Members,

I support the Van Wert data center project because of the significant infrastructure improvements it will bring to our community. Large-scale developments like this often require upgrades to roads, utilities, and energy systems, and in this case, those improvements will be funded by the developer rather than local taxpayers.

This includes enhancements to transmission infrastructure and roadway access, which will benefit not only the data center but also the broader community. These upgrades can improve safety, efficiency, and long-term capacity for future growth.

It is also important to note that the project is not expected to increase residential electric rates, which is a common concern with developments of this scale. The planning appears to have accounted for this, ensuring that residents are not negatively impacted.

This is a thoughtful and well-structured project that delivers both economic and infrastructure benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bracken'.

Craig Bracken

Dear Council Members,

I would like to express my support for the data center project, particularly because it aligns with long-standing plans for the Van Wert Megasite. This site has been designated for industrial use since 2007, reflecting years of strategic planning and community foresight.

Too often, communities invest time and resources into preparing sites for development only to see those plans remain unrealized. This project represents the successful execution of that vision.

Approving this development is not a departure from community planning—it is the fulfillment of it. It demonstrates that Van Wert is ready to attract and support large-scale investment.

This is a moment to follow through on nearly two decades of preparation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Creig Bravken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Creig" and last name "Bravken" clearly distinguishable.

Creig Bravken

Dear Members of the Council,

After carefully reviewing the available information about the proposed data center project, I would like to offer my strong and unequivocal support. This development represents a rare and significant opportunity for Van Wert—one that has the potential to shape the community's future for decades to come.

The scale of investment alone is remarkable, exceeding \$10 billion. That level of commitment brings with it not only immediate economic activity but also long-term stability. The projected \$200 million in local revenue over the next 20 years will provide sustained support for essential services, including education, infrastructure, and public safety.

Equally important are the employment opportunities. The combination of up to 1,500 construction jobs and 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages offers both short-term and long-term benefits. These are the kinds of opportunities that allow families to build stable lives and encourage young people to remain in the community.

I am also encouraged by the planning and safeguards associated with the project. The use of a site that has been designated for industrial development since 2007, the investment in infrastructure by the developer, and the attention to environmental considerations all point to a well-conceived and responsibly managed project.

In many ways, this is the type of opportunity communities hope for but rarely receive—a project that brings economic growth, aligns with long-term planning, and minimizes negative impacts. It is difficult to imagine a better use of the Megasite or a more promising investment in Van Wert's future.

For all of these reasons, I strongly encourage the Council to approve and support this project. Doing so will demonstrate leadership, vision, and a commitment to the long-term success of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Brown". The signature is stylized and cursive.

cynthia brown

Dear members of City Council,

I think it is important for us to bring responsive, neighborly investment to our town. This data center project has checked each of those boxes for me thus far. I want to highlight that we have known about this project since January 2025 and that we have had multiple opportunities to share our feedback with City Council and the community. That feedback has already resulted in beneficial changes to the project, such as the changes to Mendon Road and Bonnewitz Crossing to help with traffic concerns.

The developer remains transparent now. They have answered the questions from City Council and published them both physically and digitally. They have answered additional questions through their website. They have made every effort to give the facts about this project and demonstrate that they want to be a part of our community for the long term.

By welcoming this project to our community, we will bring in new jobs, public revenue, job training programs, and an involved developer that is responsive to our needs. This is the kind of investment towns dream of, and Van Wert has the opportunity to secure it.

Please vote in favor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darin Figel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Darin J. Figel

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project. A \$10 billion investment in our community represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The project is expected to bring hundreds of high-paying jobs and generate substantial long-term revenue for Van Wert. Beyond direct employment, each job created will support an estimated 3.5 additional jobs in the surrounding community, benefiting local businesses, retail, and services.

Equally important, this development helps ensure that our young people have a reason to stay in Van Wert after graduation. With partnerships like those planned with Vantage Career Center, the project connects education directly to career pathways. This is exactly the kind of forward-thinking investment that strengthens our economy while preserving our community's future.

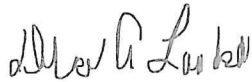
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Bowersock". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dean Bowersock

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I believe this project represents a balanced approach to growth, combining economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and community input. From the early stages in 2024, it has undergone extensive review and refinement, resulting in a plan that addresses many of the concerns typically associated with large developments.

With strong job creation, infrastructure improvements, and safeguards to protect local resources, this project offers a clear path forward for Van Wert. I encourage you to support it as an investment in the community's long-term prosperity and stability.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra A. Laudick".

Debra A Laudick

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project and the broader message it sends about Van Wert's future. Approving a development of this scale communicates clearly that our community is prepared to welcome responsible, forward-looking investment.

Large projects like this do more than provide immediate economic benefits—they establish credibility. When a community successfully attracts and supports a major investment, it demonstrates to other companies and industries that it has the infrastructure, leadership, and vision necessary for long-term growth.

This data center has the potential to serve as an anchor for additional development. Companies that rely on digital infrastructure often cluster near data centers, and suppliers, service providers, and complementary businesses may follow. Over time, this can create an ecosystem of innovation and economic activity that extends far beyond the initial project.

The projected \$200 million in community revenue over 20 years will also provide the financial foundation needed to support future growth. With stronger schools, improved infrastructure, and well-funded public services, Van Wert becomes an even more attractive place to live and invest.

Turning away an opportunity like this could make it more difficult to attract similar investments in the future. On the other hand, supporting it positions our community as forward-thinking and open to progress.

This is not just about one project—it is about setting the tone for the next generation of economic development in Van Wert.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Feasby". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Donald R Feasby

Dear Members of the Council,

After carefully reviewing the available information about the proposed data center project, I would like to offer my strong and unequivocal support. This development represents a rare and significant opportunity for Van Wert—one that has the potential to shape the community's future for decades to come.

The scale of investment alone is remarkable, exceeding \$10 billion. That level of commitment brings with it not only immediate economic activity but also long-term stability. The projected \$200 million in local revenue over the next 20 years will provide sustained support for essential services, including education, infrastructure, and public safety.

Equally important are the employment opportunities. The combination of up to 1,500 construction jobs and 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages offers both short-term and long-term benefits. These are the kinds of opportunities that allow families to build stable lives and encourage young people to remain in the community.

I am also encouraged by the planning and safeguards associated with the project. The use of a site that has been designated for industrial development since 2007, the investment in infrastructure by the developer, and the attention to environmental considerations all point to a well-conceived and responsibly managed project.

In many ways, this is the type of opportunity communities hope for but rarely receive—a project that brings economic growth, aligns with long-term planning, and minimizes negative impacts. It is difficult to imagine a better use of the Megasite or a more promising investment in Van Wert's future.

For all of these reasons, I strongly encourage the Council to approve and support this project. Doing so will demonstrate leadership, vision, and a commitment to the long-term success of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Germann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Germann

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am pleased to offer my support for the development of a new data center in our area. As our society becomes increasingly reliant on digital services, the importance of reliable, secure, and efficient data infrastructure cannot be overstated.

A local data center enhances connectivity and strengthens the reliability of essential online services for businesses, schools, and residents. This improved digital infrastructure can help bridge gaps in access to technology and enable innovation across multiple sectors.

Furthermore, modern data centers are designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind. Many utilize advanced cooling systems, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient technologies, contributing to environmentally responsible growth while meeting increasing data demands.

The presence of such infrastructure also improves resilience. By hosting critical data closer to users, communities are better equipped to maintain operations during disruptions, ensuring continuity for essential services.

Supporting this project is an investment in our digital future, strengthening both our technological capabilities and our community's ability to thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FRED C. POND". The letters are slightly slanted and connected, with a distinct loop in the letter 'P'.

Fred C. Pond

Dear Members of the Council,

I am encouraged by the environmental considerations included in the proposed data center project and would like to express my support. Responsible development is essential, and this project appears to take that responsibility seriously.

One of the most important aspects is the use of a closed-loop cooling system, which minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local water supplies. This is a critical feature, particularly in agricultural regions where water resources must be carefully managed.

The project also incorporates modern design standards aimed at efficiency and sustainability, reflecting the broader industry trend toward environmentally conscious operations.

Economic development does not have to come at the expense of environmental stewardship, and this project demonstrates that balance effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg McKeddie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg McKeddie

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project. A \$10 billion investment in our community represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The project is expected to bring hundreds of high-paying jobs and generate substantial long-term revenue for Van Wert. Beyond direct employment, each job created will support an estimated 3.5 additional jobs in the surrounding community, benefiting local businesses, retail, and services.

Equally important, this development helps ensure that our young people have a reason to stay in Van Wert after graduation. With partnerships like those planned with Vantage Career Center, the project connects education directly to career pathways. This is exactly the kind of forward-thinking investment that strengthens our economy while preserving our community's future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Cordes Byrum". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Gregory Cordes Byrum

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am pleased to offer my support for the development of a new data center in our area. As our society becomes increasingly reliant on digital services, the importance of reliable, secure, and efficient data infrastructure cannot be overstated.

A local data center enhances connectivity and strengthens the reliability of essential online services for businesses, schools, and residents. This improved digital infrastructure can help bridge gaps in access to technology and enable innovation across multiple sectors.

Furthermore, modern data centers are designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind. Many utilize advanced cooling systems, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient technologies, contributing to environmentally responsible growth while meeting increasing data demands.

The presence of such infrastructure also improves resilience. By hosting critical data closer to users, communities are better equipped to maintain operations during disruptions, ensuring continuity for essential services.

Supporting this project is an investment in our digital future, strengthening both our technological capabilities and our community's ability to thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi M. Gehron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "G".

Heidi M. Gehron

Dear Council Members,

I appreciate the attention given to safety and planning in the proposed data center project. Features such as advanced fire suppression systems, professional security, and traffic management planning demonstrate a commitment to protecting the community.

These considerations show that the project has been thoughtfully designed with both efficiency and safety in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh Kealy YMCA". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

YMCA funding

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the Van Wert data center project, as it reflects thoughtful planning, responsible development, and strong community protections.

The site has been designated and pre-annexed for industrial use since 2007, demonstrating that this type of project has long been part of the city's vision. The development also includes significant infrastructure improvements funded by the operator, including road upgrades and power transmission enhancements—without increasing residential utility costs.

Additionally, the facility will use modern, efficient technology such as a closed-loop cooling system that minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local municipal supplies. With oversight from multiple regulatory agencies, the project prioritizes safety, environmental responsibility, and transparency.

This project aligns with Van Wert's long-term planning and represents smart, forward-looking growth for the community.

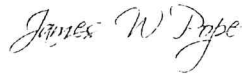
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M Pearson". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and "P".

James M Pearson

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project. A \$10 billion investment in our community represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The project is expected to bring hundreds of high-paying jobs and generate substantial long-term revenue for Van Wert. Beyond direct employment, each job created will support an estimated 3.5 additional jobs in the surrounding community, benefiting local businesses, retail, and services.

Equally important, this development helps ensure that our young people have a reason to stay in Van Wert after graduation. With partnerships like those planned with Vantage Career Center, the project connects education directly to career pathways. This is exactly the kind of forward-thinking investment that strengthens our economy while preserving our community's future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James W. Pope".

James W Pope

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the proposed data center in Van Wert and to address some common concerns in a simple and clear way.

First, the project is designed to use very little water and will not rely on the city's water supply, so it will not impact residents or local agriculture.

Second, data centers are quiet compared to other types of industrial development. After construction, there is very little traffic and no loud daily operations like you would see in a factory.

It is also important to remember that this land has been zoned for industrial use since 2007. This means the area was already planned for this type of development, and a data center is actually a lower-impact option than many other industrial uses.

Overall, this project fits the site, addresses key concerns, and provides long-term benefits for Van Wert. I encourage support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jane A Jones

Dear Members of the Council,

I am encouraged by the environmental considerations included in the proposed data center project and would like to express my support. Responsible development is essential, and this project appears to take that responsibility seriously.

One of the most important aspects is the use of a closed-loop cooling system, which minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local water supplies. This is a critical feature, particularly in agricultural regions where water resources must be carefully managed.

The project also incorporates modern design standards aimed at efficiency and sustainability, reflecting the broader industry trend toward environmentally conscious operations.

Economic development does not have to come at the expense of environmental stewardship, and this project demonstrates that balance effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Quirk".

Jason Quirk

Dear Council,

Communities across the country are competing for major investments like this one. Supporting the Van Wert data center ensures that our region remains competitive and capable of attracting large-scale development.

Turning away opportunities like this could send the wrong message to future investors. Approving it demonstrates that Van Wert is open to growth and prepared for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J B Motycka". The signature is stylized and cursive.

J B Motycka

# Data Center Should Come to Van Wert

I want to say that I support the data center coming to Van Wert for the multitude of good reasons that have been laid out throughout this process: jobs, industry, growth, data center driven community development, and tax revenue, to name a few.

As far as concerns, some thoughts:

1. The first time I heard about the data center was almost two years ago by Brent Stevens. Even then, the two issues he brought up that were a concern were power and water. From the start this was a concern out in the open. Even hearing Brent speak almost two years ago he emphasized how he wanted to make sure this did not hurt the community. Per the team of local individuals that have been working on this directly with the developers, and who have done real world site visits, they have assured us that Van Wert power and water will not be detrimentally affected by this data center. So the issue boils down to trust as far as I am concerned.
2. This brings me to my second point: a certain demographic of people in our community almost need this entire endeavor to be corrupt. It is as if they want it to be corrupt, which is *unfortunate*. This is an *out working* of our particular cultural moment of a fascination with buttoned up conspiracy theories that come straight from the movies, and also a fear of the complex reality of life, which is often random, confusing, and far too boring than an exciting and terrifying conspiracy theory that is easy to understand that creates a boogymen out to get the locals.
3. This leads me to my third point: those individuals who have been responsible for bringing the data center to our community are our neighbors, many of them I know directly or through trusted family and friends. They have lived here for years, and many were born and raised here. Van Wert is and continues to be a lifelong Home. They are not Big Brother sadistically excited to make money and destroy their own community and homes in the process. They drink the same water we do and pay the same bills as us. This isn't *Stranger Things*. They want this data center to be successful, to help the community, and more importantly be safe and environmentally healthy in the process. Incidentally, why would a company want to spend 10 billion dollars just so it could destroy a community and ultimately fail?
4. What I am getting at is motive. Those against the data center assume a corrupt and nefarious motive behind the process. I am suggesting this is unfair, unkind, and rather ridiculous. It also doesn't make sense as I hope to have explained above. Now, because life is complex, there certainly could be untoward and unforeseen consequences of this data center. But again, no one wants this project to fail. They want it to succeed. As with any endeavor, when something bad happens, those involved do what is necessary to identify the

problem, name it, fix it, and make sure it doesn't happen again. If we can allow this to happen in our current community with all the current businesses and farms, then why cannot we allow this to happen with the data center?

5. Finally, back in the 90s my parents taught me not to believe everything I read on the internet. For some reason collectively we have forgotten this in our current time. Doing your own research is fraught with danger, especially on complicated realities like data centers. I would argue the good people behind bringing the data center to Van Wert have more valuable insight and worthwhile information, by means of direct interaction with those involved in data centers and other communities that have them, than any of us who do our own research on the Wild West internet and think we have discovered the Truth. Let's get off our screens and talk to real people, with the right knowledge and experience, in person.

The reality of data centers is complex, and there are pros and cons to anything in life that is complex, and no one knows the future.

Indeed, our way of life, for better or worse, demands data centers. The infinite world of the Screen at your fingertips - with streaming TV, social media, videos, news, and now the developing world of Artificial Intelligence, and all the "do your own research" we have done at home to tell us why data centers are both good and bad - has been brought to you by the friendly neighborhood data center - whether we like it or not.

However, I encourage everyone to believe the best and trust those individuals that have done due diligence in making sure the data center overall helps our community. This is an exciting opportunity for Van Wert!

Sincerely,

 5/1/26

Jeremy Stoller

Dear Members of the Council,

Economic stability requires diversification, and the proposed data center represents an important step in that direction. By expanding into the technology and data infrastructure sector, Van Wert can reduce reliance on any single industry and build a more resilient economy.

This project offers long-term employment, steady revenue, and alignment with future economic trends. It helps ensure that our community remains viable and competitive in a rapidly changing world.

Supporting this development is an investment in stability and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. E. Hikton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John E Hikton

Dear Council,

I am writing to encourage your support of the data center project in Van Wert. I want to highlight that, contrary to what some people might say, this has been a transparent and responsive process, going back to its announcement in early 2025 and the steps it has taken in the last two months to reach out to people. It makes me strongly believe this project will be beneficial to our community.

It is important to note that the land for this site has been annexed for industrial use since 2007. A project of this nature has been in the city's long term vision for awhile and this data center is a great opportunity to make that vision a reality.

This project would bring 200-250 permanent jobs with \$80k salaries to our community, as well as 1000-1500 construction jobs. Additionally, \$200 million would go directly to our community for things like schools and roads. It is a terrific opportunity to strengthen our city for the future.

This project would not be a drain on our water or electricity supply, The data center utilizes a closed-loop cooling system meaning it will only need to pump water once when it is built. There will be a separate line to connect the data center to the grid so it will not affect the local community's power. Any infrastructure upgrades will be paid by the data center.

Please support this project so that our community can benefit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon C. Tomlinson, Ph.D.", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Jon C. Tomlinson, Ph.D.

Dear Council,

I am writing to encourage your support of the data center project in Van Wert. I want to highlight that, contrary to what some people might say, this has been a transparent and responsive process, going back to its announcement in early 2025 and the steps it has taken in the last two months to reach out to people. It makes me strongly believe this project will be beneficial to our community.

It is important to note that the land for this site has been annexed for industrial use since 2007. A project of this nature has been in the city's long term vision for awhile and this data center is a great opportunity to make that vision a reality.

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This project would not be a drain on our water or electricity supply, The data center utilizes a closed-loop cooling system meaning it will only need to pump water once when it is built. There will be a separate line to connect the data center to the grid so it will not affect the local community's power. Any infrastructure upgrades will be paid by the data center.

Please support this project so that our community can benefit.



Jonathan Stoller

Dear Members of the Council,

The scale of job creation associated with this project is significant and deserves strong support. The construction phase alone is expected to generate between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs, providing immediate economic benefits.

Following construction, the facility will support 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages. These jobs offer stability and long-term opportunity for local residents.

This is a meaningful investment in our workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua R Korte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Joshua R Korte

Dear Council Members,

I would like to express my support for the proposed data center because it represents a thoughtful and balanced approach to growth. Too often, communities are forced to choose between economic development and protecting their quality of life. This project shows that it is possible to achieve both.

From an economic standpoint, the benefits are substantial. The creation of high-paying jobs, the influx of construction employment, and the long-term revenue projected for the community all contribute to a stronger and more stable local economy. These benefits are particularly important for maintaining public services and supporting schools without placing additional burdens on residents.

At the same time, the project incorporates important environmental and community considerations. The use of a closed-loop cooling system is a responsible approach to water management, helping to ensure that local resources are not strained. The site's long-standing designation for industrial use also means that development is taking place where it was always intended, rather than encroaching on residential or agricultural land unexpectedly.

There are also protections in place related to infrastructure and utilities, including the fact that improvements will be funded by the developer and that residential electric rates are not expected to increase. These details matter, as they reflect a commitment to minimizing negative impacts on the community.

Balanced growth is not just about what a project brings—it is about how it fits into the broader community. In this case, the alignment between economic opportunity, environmental responsibility, and long-term planning makes a compelling case for support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Minnig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Minnig

Dear Members of the Council,

I am encouraged by the environmental considerations included in the proposed data center project and would like to express my support. Responsible development is essential, and this project appears to take that responsibility seriously.

One of the most important aspects is the use of a closed-loop cooling system, which minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local water supplies. This is a critical feature, particularly in agricultural regions where water resources must be carefully managed.

The project also incorporates modern design standards aimed at efficiency and sustainability, reflecting the broader industry trend toward environmentally conscious operations.

Economic development does not have to come at the expense of environmental stewardship, and this project demonstrates that balance effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Haas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kim Haas

Dear Members of the Council,

After carefully reviewing the available information about the proposed data center project, I would like to offer my strong and unequivocal support. This development represents a rare and significant opportunity for Van Wert—one that has the potential to shape the community's future for decades to come.

The scale of investment alone is remarkable, exceeding \$10 billion. That level of commitment brings with it not only immediate economic activity but also long-term stability. The projected \$200 million in local revenue over the next 20 years will provide sustained support for essential services, including education, infrastructure, and public safety.

Equally important are the employment opportunities. The combination of up to 1,500 construction jobs and 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages offers both short-term and long-term benefits. These are the kinds of opportunities that allow families to build stable lives and encourage young people to remain in the community.

I am also encouraged by the planning and safeguards associated with the project. The use of a site that has been designated for industrial development since 2007, the investment in infrastructure by the developer, and the attention to environmental considerations all point to a well-conceived and responsibly managed project.

In many ways, this is the type of opportunity communities hope for but rarely receive—a project that brings economic growth, aligns with long-term planning, and minimizes negative impacts. It is difficult to imagine a better use of the Megasite or a more promising investment in Van Wert's future.

For all of these reasons, I strongly encourage the Council to approve and support this project. Doing so will demonstrate leadership, vision, and a commitment to the long-term success of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Brunson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kyle Brunson

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I believe this project represents a balanced approach to growth, combining economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and community input. From the early stages in 2024, it has undergone extensive review and refinement, resulting in a plan that addresses many of the concerns typically associated with large developments.

With strong job creation, infrastructure improvements, and safeguards to protect local resources, this project offers a clear path forward for Van Wert. I encourage you to support it as an investment in the community's long-term prosperity and stability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" and the last name "Young" clearly distinguishable.

Laura Young

Dear Council Members,

One of the most encouraging aspects of this project is its focus on workforce development. Collaboration with institutions like Vantage Career Center will provide students with valuable training and direct pathways into high-quality careers. This aligns education with real-world opportunities in a meaningful way.

Keeping talent in Van Wert is essential for our long-term success. When young people can find well-paying, stable jobs close to home, they are more likely to stay, raise families, and contribute to the community. This project supports that vision and strengthens our future.

I ask that you support bringing this development to Van Wert

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LAuren Anspach', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lauren Anspach

**VAN WERT AREA  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**



To the members of Van Wert City Council,

My name is Lauren Buchanan, and I serve as the Workforce Development Manager for the Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation and run Van Wert Works. Every day, my job is centered around one question: *How do we ensure Van Wert County remains a place where people can build meaningful careers without feeling like they have to leave home to find opportunity?*

Van Wert County has a strong legacy in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, and logistics, but the reality is that communities that remain competitive are the ones willing to evolve alongside emerging industries. Data center infrastructure is not a trend. It's a critical part of how businesses, hospitals, schools, and consumers operate every single day. That is why I support the proposed data center project.

This project creates an opportunity to diversify our local economy with highly-skilled, high-wage careers in areas such as IT, electrical systems, HVAC, facilities management, cybersecurity, engineering, and network operations. Beyond the direct jobs created by the facility itself, data centers generate significant demand for construction workers, maintenance professionals, transportation providers, security personnel, landscapers, and sanitation services.

Even more importantly, our education partners are prepared for this future. Northwest State Community College, Vantage Career Center and our local K-12 school districts have already expressed a willingness to align programming and training opportunities to help students and adult workers build the technical skills these careers require.

Too often, rural communities lose talented young people because they believe opportunity only exists elsewhere. In fact, that was me until 2021 when I moved home to take care of my mom after 10 years working in large cities across the Midwest. Ongoing investment in this region has helped change the narrative, and I want to see the momentum continue.

Van Wert deserves the chance to compete, grow, and prepare our workforce for the careers of tomorrow while keeping opportunity close to home. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren Buchanan, Workforce Development Manager | 140 E. Main Street Van Wert, OH 45891

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project and the broader message it sends about Van Wert's future. Approving a development of this scale communicates clearly that our community is prepared to welcome responsible, forward-looking investment.

Large projects like this do more than provide immediate economic benefits—they establish credibility. When a community successfully attracts and supports a major investment, it demonstrates to other companies and industries that it has the infrastructure, leadership, and vision necessary for long-term growth.


This data center has the potential to serve as an anchor for additional development. Companies that rely on digital infrastructure often cluster near data centers, and suppliers, service providers, and complementary businesses may follow. Over time, this can create an ecosystem of innovation and economic activity that extends far beyond the initial project.

The projected \$200 million in community revenue over 20 years will also provide the financial foundation needed to support future growth. With stronger schools, improved infrastructure, and well-funded public services, Van Wert becomes an even more attractive place to live and invest.

Turning away an opportunity like this could make it more difficult to attract similar investments in the future. On the other hand, supporting it positions our community as forward-thinking and open to progress.

This is not just about one project—it is about setting the tone for the next generation of economic development in Van Wert.

Sincerely,

  
1048 Maplewood Dr  
Van Wert Ohio 45891

Dear Members of Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express support for the proposed \$10 billion data center project. This investment would bring hundreds of high-paying jobs to Van Wert while generating hundreds of millions in long-term community revenue. Developments of this scale can serve as a catalyst for sustained economic growth, not only strengthening local infrastructure and expanding opportunities for residents and small businesses, but also attracting additional growth as that growth manifests.

The project's commitment to sourcing local labor and materials, along with workforce partnerships such as Vantage Career Center, ensures that these benefits remain rooted in the community. With each data center job expected to support approximately 3.5 additional jobs, the broader economic impact will be significant. Just as importantly, creating stable, well-paying careers locally helps ensure that young people can build their futures in Van Wert rather than seeking opportunities elsewhere.

This project is a win-win for Van Wert and Ohio. I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

*John A. Smith*  
1234 Main Street  
Van Wert, OH 44881

Dear Members of the Council,

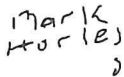
I am encouraged by the environmental considerations included in the proposed data center project and would like to express my support. Responsible development is essential, and this project appears to take that responsibility seriously.

One of the most important aspects is the use of a closed-loop cooling system, which minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local water supplies. This is a critical feature, particularly in agricultural regions where water resources must be carefully managed.

The project also incorporates modern design standards aimed at efficiency and sustainability, reflecting the broader industry trend toward environmentally conscious operations.

Economic development does not have to come at the expense of environmental stewardship, and this project demonstrates that balance effectively.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mark Hurless in black ink.

Mark Hurless

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project in Van Wert. This project represents a responsible and appropriate use of land that has already been designated for industrial purposes since 2007, aligning well with the city's long-term planning and development goals.

The fact that this site has been zoned for industrial use for nearly two decades demonstrates clear foresight by community leaders to accommodate projects of this nature. A data center is not only consistent with that designation, but it is also one of the more modern, efficient, and low-impact forms of industrial development available today. Compared to traditional industrial operations, data centers typically generate less traffic, lower emissions, and minimal noise, making them a strong fit for the area.

In addition to being an appropriate land use, this project brings meaningful benefits to Van Wert. It represents a forward-looking investment that can strengthen the city's infrastructure, diversify its economic base, and reinforce its role in supporting digital innovation. The development also signals to other companies that Van Wert is a community that respects its planning framework and is open to responsible growth.

Supporting this data center is not just about a single project—it is about honoring the city's established land-use decisions and embracing opportunities that align with them in a thoughtful and productive way.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the approval and support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Koester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent and the last name "Koester" following in a similar style.

Mark A Koester

Dear City Council,

I am writing to show my support for data centers in our community.

Modern data centers are more efficient than their predecessors, and as a result more environmentally conscious. A great example of this is the adaptation of the closed water loop system to cool the machinery. Data centers now only need to collect water once, meaning they reuse water extremely efficiently.

Additionally, it is important that our city takes advantage of the investments offered and future tax revenue that data centers bring. Our city has the chance to gain billions in planned investment and collect millions in tax revenue. This is a significant opportunity to improve Van Wert's income without raising taxes on households.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M B Bissell". The letters are stylized and connected.

mary beth bissell

Dear Council Members,

I appreciate the attention given to safety and planning in the proposed data center project. Features such as advanced fire suppression systems, professional security, and traffic management planning demonstrate a commitment to protecting the community.

These considerations show that the project has been thoughtfully designed with both efficiency and safety in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Jacobs

Dear Members of the Council,

As someone who values the strength and future of our local schools, I strongly support the proposed data center project. One of the most compelling aspects of this development is the projected revenue it will generate for our community—funding that can directly benefit education.

Over the next 20 years, the project is expected to contribute approximately \$200 million in local revenue. This funding can be used to improve school facilities, invest in technology, support teachers, and expand programs that prepare students for the future.

Importantly, this revenue comes without placing additional tax burdens on residents. It represents a sustainable way to strengthen our education system while maintaining affordability for families.

Beyond funding, the presence of a major technology-driven employer in our community can inspire students to pursue careers in STEM fields and create opportunities for partnerships, internships, and workforce development.

This project is an investment not only in infrastructure but in the future of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NH', is positioned above the name Nate Hoverman.

Nate Hoverman

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the data center project in Van Wert. This is a data center project that has been thoughtfully planned to benefit our community and not drain our resources. There has been a lot of transparency in response to community questions, which makes me confident that this is a project that will truly benefit Van Wert.

Concerns that people may have about data centers have been addressed. Water use will be minimized through a closed-loop cooling system that will reuse water instead of continuously pumping in new water. Infrastructure upgrades will be paid for by the data center. The local power grid will not be burdened because the data center will have its own power line connecting it to the grid. Noise and light pollution will be mitigated through design elements.

The project's benefits to the community include 200-250 permanent high-paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, and \$200 million for the community that can go to things like schools and roads. These are long-term investments that would strengthen Van Wert going into the future.

Lastly, this land was annexed for industrial use in 2007. It has always been the vision to bring a large industrial project to Van Wert, and this Data Center is a great opportunity to do so.

I strongly encourage you to support this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Boley".

Nick Boley

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am pleased to offer my support for the development of a new data center in our area. As our society becomes increasingly reliant on digital services, the importance of reliable, secure, and efficient data infrastructure cannot be overstated.

A local data center enhances connectivity and strengthens the reliability of essential online services for businesses, schools, and residents. This improved digital infrastructure can help bridge gaps in access to technology and enable innovation across multiple sectors.

Furthermore, modern data centers are designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind. Many utilize advanced cooling systems, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient technologies, contributing to environmentally responsible growth while meeting increasing data demands.

The presence of such infrastructure also improves resilience. By hosting critical data closer to users, communities are better equipped to maintain operations during disruptions, ensuring continuity for essential services.

Supporting this project is an investment in our digital future, strengthening both our technological capabilities and our community's ability to thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy E Agler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" being the most prominent.

Randy E Agler

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the proposed data center in Van Wert and to address some common concerns in a simple and clear way.

First, the project is designed to use very little water and will not rely on the city's water supply, so it will not impact residents or local agriculture.

Second, data centers are quiet compared to other types of industrial development. After construction, there is very little traffic and no loud daily operations like you would see in a factory.

It is also important to remember that this land has been zoned for industrial use since 2007. This means the area was already planned for this type of development, and a data center is actually a lower-impact option than many other industrial uses.

Overall, this project fits the site, addresses key concerns, and provides long-term benefits for Van Wert. I encourage support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond F Haas".

Raymond F Haas

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support for the proposed data center in Van Wert. This is the kind of project the city needs to position itself for the future and is a long time coming for the city's long term plan.

The site for the project was annexed for industrial use in 2007. The city has long wanted an industrial project of this nature to come to Van Wert. This is the chance to finally make that happen.

This project would bring 200-250 high paying permanent jobs, as well as 1000-1500 construction jobs to our city. Further, it would provide \$200 million in local revenue to go to things like schools and roads. That is the kind of investment our city needs to be strong for the future.

This data center would not drain our water or burden our electricity grid. It uses a closed loop system which minimizes the amount of water it needs. It will have its own connection line to the power grid so that it does not burden electricity flowing to the city. Any infrastructure improvements that are needed will be paid by the data center.

I strongly encourage you to support this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Turner".

Rick Turner

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed data center in Van Wert. This project would be a great long-term investment for the community, and the developers have shown thoughtful and transparent planning. Throughout the process, the developers have listened to and considered the residents' concerns, which has led to this project being a mutually beneficial arrangement.

The data center will provide 200-250 high-paying permanent jobs and provide investment in our community for schools and roads. Additionally, the project will generate 1000-1500 construction jobs and has been designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind.

The data center utilizes a closed loop cooling system, meaning it will not be a constant drain on our water supply and instead will only need an initial input of water. Additionally, the data center will not strain our local power grid and will instead pull from a new private line, built from a station specifically for this site.

Lastly, this site has been set aside for industrial use since 2007. This kind of project has been in the city's long-term vision for decades. This project is a perfect opportunity to capitalize on that vision in a beneficial way for the community and position Van Wert well for the future.

I strongly encourage your support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I urge you to support the Data Center in Van Wert. This is the economic investment our city needs to strengthen itself for the future. Now is the time to make our city's long term goals a reality.

In 2007 the land where the data center is proposed was annexed for industrial use. Bringing a big industrial project to the city is not a new idea and this project is a great fit. This data center is modern and efficient and will not drain our city's resources or impact the quality of life.

There has been consistent transparency about the details of the project. The benefits are clear. 200-250 permanent high paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, and \$200 million to the community for roads and schools among other things.

The data center will only need to pump in water at the beginning since it is a closed-loop system that will reuse water. It will not burden local electricity lines because it will have its own line connecting it to its own substation. Noise and light pollution will be low as well.

Please support this project to support economic growth in Van Wert.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Riobin Childs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Riobin Childs

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project. A \$10 billion investment in our community represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The project is expected to bring hundreds of high-paying jobs and generate substantial long-term revenue for Van Wert. Beyond direct employment, each job created will support an estimated 3.5 additional jobs in the surrounding community, benefiting local businesses, retail, and services.

Equally important, this development helps ensure that our young people have a reason to stay in Van Wert after graduation. With partnerships like those planned with Vantage Career Center, the project connects education directly to career pathways. This is exactly the kind of forward-thinking investment that strengthens our economy while preserving our community's future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan L. McCracken

Dear Council Members,

The data center project positions Van Wert as part of the growing digital infrastructure that supports modern life. From cloud computing to online services, data centers are essential to the global economy.

By welcoming this project, our community becomes part of that network, gaining relevance and visibility in a high-growth industry.

This is an opportunity to move forward and embrace the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott L. Bigham". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

scott L. Bigham

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I strongly encourage you to support the Van Wert data center. The economic benefits of the project are clear, and the right steps have been taken to protect residents from potential risks associated with data centers.

The data center will be a big boost to Van Wert's economy and community. It will provide 200-250 permanent high paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, infrastructure improvements paid by the data center, and \$200 million for services and infrastructure such as schools and roads.

The city's water, electricity, and noise levels will be protected. The data center will use a closed-loop cooling system, which will minimize its water intake. Electricity for the data center will come from its own substation and through its own line to avoid affecting the city's power supply. Noise levels will be low due to the closed loop cooling system.

This project will provide many benefits to our community, so I urge you to support it!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jarvis'.

Scott W. Jarvis, MD, FACP

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I strongly encourage you to support the Van Wert data center. The economic benefits of the project are clear, and the right steps have been taken to protect residents from potential risks associated with data centers.

The data center will be a big boost to Van Wert's economy and community. It will provide 200-250 permanent high paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, infrastructure improvements paid by the data center, and \$200 million for services and infrastructure such as schools and roads.

The city's water, electricity, and noise levels will be protected. The data center will use a closed-loop cooling system, which will minimize its water intake. Electricity for the data center will come from its own substation and through its own line to avoid affecting the city's power supply. Noise levels will be low due to the closed loop cooling system.

This project will provide many benefits to our community, so I urge you to support it!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth A Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Seth A Baker

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the proposed data center in Van Wert and to address some common concerns in a simple and clear way.

First, the project is designed to use very little water and will not rely on the city's water supply, so it will not impact residents or local agriculture.

Second, data centers are quiet compared to other types of industrial development. After construction, there is very little traffic and no loud daily operations like you would see in a factory.

It is also important to remember that this land has been zoned for industrial use since 2007. This means the area was already planned for this type of development, and a data center is actually a lower-impact option than many other industrial uses.

Overall, this project fits the site, addresses key concerns, and provides long-term benefits for Van Wert. I encourage support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Foster". The letter "S" is large and stylized, followed by the first name "Foster" in a cursive script.

Dr. Shad Foster

Dear Council Members,

I would like to express my support for the proposed data center because it represents a thoughtful and balanced approach to growth. Too often, communities are forced to choose between economic development and protecting their quality of life. This project shows that it is possible to achieve both.

From an economic standpoint, the benefits are substantial. The creation of high-paying jobs, the influx of construction employment, and the long-term revenue projected for the community all contribute to a stronger and more stable local economy. These benefits are particularly important for maintaining public services and supporting schools without placing additional burdens on residents.

At the same time, the project incorporates important environmental and community considerations. The use of a closed-loop cooling system is a responsible approach to water management, helping to ensure that local resources are not strained. The site's long-standing designation for industrial use also means that development is taking place where it was always intended, rather than encroaching on residential or agricultural land unexpectedly.

There are also protections in place related to infrastructure and utilities, including the fact that improvements will be funded by the developer and that residential electric rates are not expected to increase. These details matter, as they reflect a commitment to minimizing negative impacts on the community.

Balanced growth is not just about what a project brings—it is about how it fits into the broader community. In this case, the alignment between economic opportunity, environmental responsibility, and long-term planning makes a compelling case for support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shane C. Stabler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Shane C. Stabler

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project in our community. This development represents a significant opportunity for economic growth, workforce development, and long-term investment in our region.

Data centers are critical infrastructure in today's economy. Beyond their technical role, they bring substantial local benefits. The construction phase alone will generate numerous jobs for contractors, engineers, and skilled tradespeople. Once operational, the facility will continue to provide stable, high-quality employment opportunities in IT, maintenance, security, and facility management.

In addition, the presence of a data center often attracts complementary businesses and encourages broader economic development. Increased tax revenues generated by the project can support public services such as schools, infrastructure improvements, and emergency services—benefiting all of Van Wert.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage approval and support of this data center project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacie Couch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Stacie Couch

Hello,

I am writing in support of the data center. I think they have taken multiple steps to demonstrate they will be good neighbors in the community.

First and most obviously, they will bring an economic windfall to Van Wert. We have been looking for a developer in our megasite for nearly 20 years. We've finally found one that will create hundreds of well-paying jobs and plenty of tax revenue without straining our local resources.

The resources we need to be concerned about are housing, water, and power. This project will bring in plenty of jobs without bringing in the thousands that a facility like Honda would – it's a good number that our community is currently built to handle. This is responsible job growth that will bring development without pushing locals out. This project has responded to our local concerns about water use, committing to a closed loop water system that will use less water than other industrial projects. It's clear that we can support this project. Regarding power, we have commitments on a local and state level to protect us from an electricity bill increases from this project. Furthermore, this developer has been consistently engaged with the community. Brent Stevens has made the intentions of this project clear since last January, and the project recently added a website to address any public questions folks have.

I think this is the exact sort of development we've been waiting for. I think it would be a huge miss to push against it now. Please vote in support.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacy Adam". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stacy E. Adam

Dear Council Members,

The data center project positions Van Wert as part of the growing digital infrastructure that supports modern life. From cloud computing to online services, data centers are essential to the global economy.

By welcoming this project, our community becomes part of that network, gaining relevance and visibility in a high-growth industry.

This is an opportunity to move forward and embrace the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Jent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'S'.

Stacy Jent

Hello,

I am writing in support of the data center. I think they have taken multiple steps to demonstrate they will be good neighbors in the community.

First and most obviously, they will bring an economic windfall to Van Wert. We have been looking for a developer in our megasite for nearly 20 years. We've finally found one that will create hundreds of well-paying jobs and plenty of tax revenue without straining our local resources.

The resources we need to be concerned about are housing, water, and power. This project will bring in plenty of jobs without bringing in the thousands that a facility like Honda would – it's a good number that our community is currently built to handle. This is responsible job growth that will bring development without pushing locals out. This project has responded to our local concerns about water use, committing to a closed loop water system that will use less water than other industrial projects. It's clear that we can support this project. Regarding power, we have commitments on a local and state level to protect us from an electricity bill increases from this project. Furthermore, this developer has been consistently engaged with the community. Brent Stevens has made the intentions of this project clear since last January, and the project recently added a website to address any public questions folks have.

I think this is the exact sort of development we've been waiting for. I think it would be a huge miss to push against it now. Please vote in support.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "B".

Steve Bailey

Dear Council,

Communities across the country are competing for major investments like this one. Supporting the Van Wert data center ensures that our region remains competitive and capable of attracting large-scale development.

Turning away opportunities like this could send the wrong message to future investors. Approving it demonstrates that Van Wert is open to growth and prepared for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Burk". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "S" and a cursive "B".

Susan Burk

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the Data center in Van Wert. This project would provide many long term benefits to the city without negatively impacting the environment and residents. It is time for Van Wert to position itself for the future by inviting in modern infrastructure to be apart of the digital growth that is happening.

The project's benefits to the community are numerous. 200-250 permanent high paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, \$200 million in local revenue that would go to things like schools and roads, and infrastructure improvements paid for by the data center. That is investment that will benefit Van Wert long term by strengthening our economy and community for the future.

Modern data centers are built to be efficient and sustainable and this project is an example of that. It includes a closed loop water cooling system, meaning water will be pumped in at the beginning but then will be reused over and over again to cool the data center. The electricity for it will come through a separate line than the local distribution lines so the city's power grid will not be impacted.

Overall, this project provides many direct community benefits while protecting the community's resources. I urge you to support this project.



Thomas F Tate

Dear Members of the Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center development in Van Wert. This project represents a transformative opportunity for our community, with an investment exceeding \$10 billion. Opportunities of this magnitude are rare, especially for a community of our size, and they deserve careful consideration with an eye toward long-term prosperity.

The projected \$200 million in community revenue over the next 20 years will provide meaningful and sustained support for our schools, public safety services, and infrastructure improvements. This type of revenue can reduce pressure on local taxpayers while enhancing the quality of life for residents.

In addition, the creation of 200 to 250 permanent, high-paying jobs—with average salaries around \$80,000—will provide stable career paths for local residents. The construction phase alone is expected to generate up to 1,500 jobs, bringing immediate economic activity to the area.

This project is not speculative or out of place—it aligns with nearly two decades of planning for the Van Wert Megasite, which has been designated for industrial use since 2007. Supporting this project is consistent with the vision our community has already embraced.

I encourage the Council to support this development and help position Van Wert for long-term economic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Grothouse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tina Grothouse

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to encourage you to support the data center in Van Wert. This project poses little risk with big benefits for our community. It is time to bring a project of this scale to Van Wert.

Since 2007 the land for where this project is proposed has been set aside for industrial use. It has sat empty for almost two decades. The city has had a long term vision for an industrial project to come here and this is the opportunity to make that happen.

The data center has been thoughtfully planned to avoid negative impacts on the community. It would use a closed loop water cooling system to minimize how much water it needs. Electricity will be brought in using its own line to not interfere with electricity flowing to the city. Any infrastructure improvements that are needed will be paid for by the data center. The data center will produce little noise and light pollution.

This project will bring many economic benefits to the city such as 200-250 permanent high paying job, 1000-1500 construction jobs, and \$200 million to go to things like schools and roads. Throughout the process there has been a lot of transparency and responsiveness to questions and that has made me feel confident in this project.

Please support this for our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Miller', written in a cursive style.

Trevor Miller

Dear Council Members,

I appreciate the attention given to safety and planning in the proposed data center project. Features such as advanced fire suppression systems, professional security, and traffic management planning demonstrate a commitment to protecting the community.

These considerations show that the project has been thoughtfully designed with both efficiency and safety in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ch. R. B." or similar, written in a cursive style.

Ri

Esteemed Council Members and Dearest Citizens of Van Wert County,

I write this letter as a former resident of Convoy, OH and as someone who has family, friends, former teachers, and former co-workers in the area. The facts, considerations, and notes I include in this letter are based not just on the sources I provide, but the knowledge I have gained in my Master of Science in Environmental Studies at Ohio University and my certificate in Appalachian Health, which focused on the health disparities that plague rural regions such as ours. These concerns and recommendations are further informed by my research experience with phytoremediation and the abatement of acid mine drainage.

In no way am I strictly against data centers nor development; I have taught Digital Art and Technology at Ohio University where we trained our own supercomputer with non-copyrighted material. I understand the limitations and opportunities of this software, and understand that long before AI existed, data centers were powering our servers. Still, even the greatest proponent of AI would have every right to question how a data center would impact their community. One way to conceptualize these impacts is through watershed health.

Over 243,000 people rely on the Auglaize watershed, as it's shared between Convoy, Liberty, Wapakoneta, Lima, Spencerville, Delphos, Ohio City, Monroeville, Paulding, Continental and, of course, Van Wert (Ohio Watershed Data, 2021). Rain in Monroeville and Paulding recharges the wells in Convoy. Likewise, pollution in Liberty impacts water quality in the Van Wert reservoir. Throughout any given year, a water system will experience low and high flow events. In a low flow period, when the depth of water is lessened, ephemeral ponds dry up, pollution becomes more concentrated, and waterbodies become warmer (Satzinger & Bachmann, 2025). While fluctuations are normal, external pressures can exasperate these effects and result in reduced ecosystem services, thereby negatively impacting human health (USDA, 2002).

Watershed health is determined according to its safety for human and animal consumption as well as its ability to support aquatic life. The Auglaize watershed scored a C- for these factors in 2018 (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, 2018). If we zoom in more, and look at our subwatersheds, all subwatersheds in Van Wert County are impaired. Van Wert's Lower Town Creek is impaired due to the presence of E. coli and polychlorinated biphenyls. As a result, our local water has not been able to support recreational use nor fish for human consumption since 2018 and, eight years since first detection, there is still no plan in place to address it (Environmental Protection Agency, 2026).

There seems to be a misconception that a closed loop system means no water is lost. The term closed loop refers to the primary cooling loop, where water is used for cooling on one end and left to cool on the other. These systems are not leak-free, but they do use approximately 50-70% less water than traditional water-cooling systems by using enclosed systems, where water is not exposed to air (World Economic Forum, 2024). So, if the initial filling is 5,500 gallons, and a non-closed loop system would need to replenish that daily, we can calculate that the data center would need 2,500-1,650 gallons of water a day (Van Wert Ohio Data Center, 2026). Since this water will not be drawn from municipal supplies or wells, it must be coming directly from our surface water. Surface water supplies groundwater, so claiming that this data center will not draw from wells or municipal supplies, while technically true, is misleading. This will impact the available water in residents' wells, as the data center will take the water before it has a chance to infiltrate our soil. In a comprehensive study on global industry attitudes, it was found that approximately 53% of data center operators do not track their water usage (Uptime, 2025).

In order to maintain efficiency and remove toxic sludge, closed loop systems require operators to 'bleed the lines', which includes the dispelling of forever chemicals known as PFAS (Environmental and Energy

Study Institute, 2026). PFAS are the class of chemicals that DuPont knowingly poisoned the Ohio river with from the 1950s to 2013, whose intentional concealment of the health impacts were only discovered because a farmer in West Virginia noticed his cattle were dying (Ohio Attorney General, 2018). These chemicals are known carcinogens, decrease fertility in women, lead to developmental delays in children, suppress the immune system, and increase cholesterol levels (EPA, 2026). Traditional drinking water treatment technologies are not able to remove PFAS, meaning specialized systems must be implemented in order to remove them from our drinking water (EPA, 2026). As is, federal regulation requires public water systems to complete initial monitoring and begin ongoing compliance monitoring by 2027. These systems will not be required to reduce PFAS levels until 2029 (Environmental Protection Agency, 2026).

With this in mind, we must consider who will pay for these specialized systems. Before allotments are made, the council must be proactive and implement such systems. Otherwise, we will be knowingly exposing our community members to PFAS. As is, the Ohio EPA has drafted a General Permit Authorization for Discharges from Data Center Facilities that would loosen regulations on water discharge (Ohio EPA, 2026). This permit recognizes that, in granting this permit, our water quality would suffer. So, if we choose to have the data center shoulder its own burdens of pollution, then we must draft local law in accordance.

The creation of electricity requires water as well, with natural gas power plants consuming 2,800 gallons per MWh (US Energy Information Administration, 2023). With the data center projected to use 500 MWh, that's 1,400,000 gallons of water an hour (Van Wert Data Center, 2026). If this electricity is generated in Van Wert, OH, that will reduce the available surface water and thereby our groundwater supply. If this electricity is produced elsewhere, then we become responsible for the impacts on that area's water supply.

The capacity of Van Wert, OH's reservoir is 1.01 billion gallons and, in a drought, could provide Van Wert City with water for 15-16 months. The refill of this reservoir depends on local stream flow, with the creek being able to provide between 180 million to 1.26 billion gallons of water in a calendar year (City of Van Wert, 2023). While data on the precise withdrawal from just the reservoir is not publicly available, the annual public surface water withdrawal in Van Wert County, OH is 1.002 billion gallons. With the reservoir capacity, county surface water use, predicted drought usage in mind, and the very real possibility of the local stream only providing 180 million gallons of water in a year, it becomes clear that, contrary to the council's claim, there isn't an explicit excess of water in the Van Wert county reservoir.

In fact, in August of 2025, Ohio saw less than a tenth of an inch of rain with Van Wert being in extreme drought in early October (Ohio's Country Journal, 2025). Ohio is infamous for its drastic weather changes, and any drought followed by a heavy downpour will result in increased runoff, reducing the recharge of groundwater despite precipitation. In Van Wert County, 124 farmers have formally committed to addressing these concerns and to improving the health of our watershed, through the implementation of the Best Management Practices under the H2Ohio program (Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District). Yet, the council appears to not take this community's concerns about the watershed seriously, as though these are a select few voices that can be ignored.

It my sincerest hope that this failure to take the community's concerns seriously is out of ignorance, rather than maliciousness. The residents of Van Wert elected each of you in good faith, so I implore you to consider a moratorium until full transparency can be provided and proper environmental and public health impact assessments are done.

In honor of the farmland I grew up in,

*Brooke Ripley*

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