



July 6, 2026

To the Hillsboro City Council,

At the June 23rd Hillsboro City Council meeting, many of our members received an initial announcement that no public comment period would be available. As the date drew near, we learned otherwise. Despite this, many local residents came out to express our serious and ongoing concerns with the Council's approach to recent data center project approvals.

Today we have learned there have been some Council Meeting protocol updates for the July 7th meeting concerning comment periods for agenda and non-agenda items, presence of security officers, procedures for meeting disruptions, and rules about where we can and cannot stand.

While these updates may lead to some additional 'order' in the meetings, they do not really address the elephant in the room.

**WE ASK THAT YOU ADOPT A NEW PROCEDURE FOR
PUBLIC INPUT ON DATA CENTERS**

It is clearly time for a new process for airing concerns. Here are a few ideas we hope you will consider:

- 1. STANDING AGENDA ITEM – DATA CENTER POLICY REFORM:** To prevent any further perception of silencing, deferring or suppressing feedback concerning data center policies or lack of action by the Council or the Mayor, please create a standing agenda item such as 'Data center policy reform proposals.'
- 2. SPONSOR A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC FORUM:** Hillsboro City Council could sponsor a forum in which the public, local and regional leaders, experts and elected officials can convene to address the data center approval process and the immediate steps needed to address resource depletion, increasing rates, subversion of public process and appropriate responses going forward, ALL IN PUBLIC, and permitting a public comment opportunity either in writing or in person throughout the process.
- 3. ESTABLISH A CITIZEN DATA CENTER UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD:** This Board could hold public hearings (such as suggested in #1), to (i) review proposed data center developments, (ii) issue recommendations to the City Council (iii) request public reports from utilities and data center operators, and (iv) recommend mitigation measures. Citizens would thereby have direct access to crucial information affecting their lives and property BEFORE CONTRACTS ARE ENTERED.
- 4. CREATE A JOINT CITY-COUNTY DATA CENTER COMMISSION:** Because data centers affect regional infrastructure, the city could partner with county agencies such as the Washington County Board of Commissioners, local utilities, school districts, community organizations and environmental groups. This commission could evaluate regional power needs, water infrastructure expansion, economic impacts, housing and transportation pressures and community benefit agreements.

Thank you for considering these real solutions for bringing the people of Hillsboro and Washington County back into the data center regulation process where we belong. Denying our access shuts us out of these bad bargains which are selling off our precious quality of life, safety, health, water, and electricity. With one large lawsuit already underway against the City, these steps outlined above could be a healthy step away from adversity with the people the Council serves and toward better partnership in addressing this crisis.