

I am writing to you today as County Commissioner of Precinct 4, Leon County, Texas, Marquez Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief, and a local resident. This letter is to inform you that I have a strong opposition to Data Centers, Battery Storage Facilities, Coin Mining, and Solar and Wind Farms in my county. As a resident, I live in Leon County to enjoy the calm, quiet life that is supposed to be enjoyed in an agricultural community. As a 5<sup>th</sup> generation rancher and my kids being the 6<sup>th</sup> generation, I would like them to enjoy the same wide-open spaces and sky that my family and the ones before myself have had the opportunity to enjoy. I do not wish my family to grow up or live around the industrial settings that are being pushed on small rural counties in Texas by large pockets of corporate money and greedy politicians. This infrastructure is only needed in the large cities that hold the bulk of the population in Texas and instead of making them sustain their own growth, we rural citizens are taking the brunt of the hit as our land, water, and skies are the ones that are being threatened by over bearing, land grabbing companies to further develop large cities.

A large Data Center called the Kahla Project is being proposed in Leon County, Texas, off FM 1146 just outside the City of Marquez. This Center, if constructed, will be one of the top five largest in the United States. From my view as Fire Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department that would be responding first to this site and the roadways leading up to it, I am here today to tell you that we do not have the man power, the equipment, or the training needed to respond if a disaster occurred. Before a Center of this size could even begin to develop, I would believe they would be required to provide all necessary equipment and training along with any additional things that could transpire in a hazardous situation on site or leading up to it. That holds true for all of the facilities mentioned above.

From a traffic standpoint, this is a mess. I would be asking TxDOT, before they consider anything for this Data Center, that US Highway 79 would need to be improved with turning lanes at both US Highway 79 and FM 1146 along with US Highway 79 and FM 1512. FM 1146 is a two-lane black-top roadway that has no shoulders and is in no way capable of handling this amount of traffic. FM 1512 is also a two-lane black-top roadway and would be utilized to access this site along with FM 1469, all of which are incapable of handling the load of any more traffic. As a Commissioner, I am requesting TxDOT to investigate the small Farm-to-Market roads and not approve of anything unless the company plans to pay one hundred percent of the improvements needed on these roadways. County Roads 381, 382, 383, 384, and 344 would all be used to access this site, and all these roads would need to be widened and improved to not only sustain the large equipment, but the excess traffic as well.

Our agricultural land is diminishing daily by hundreds of acres. In the future, we will not need Data Centers to store pictures or emails or create a letter on its own; we will all be

fighting for food. We would be creating self-destruction among ourselves as a nation that may have an email from 1999 stored on a chip, but not real chips to eat. I have seen in my short 43 years on this planet the agricultural community slowly die off as a way of life and a good living for families. The health and safety hazards have not even been seen yet on projects of this size. The concerns about the runoff from these facilities into our water streams like the Navasota River that supplies drinking water all the way from Lake Limestone to the Coast for many towns would be compromised. More land fields would be filled up with used Data Center equipment, old solar panels, and other materials that cannot be reused or recycled.

There are many more reasons why Industries, like the ones mentioned above, do not have a place in rural counties and Leon County. I am asking you to place a stop on all Data Centers, Battery Storage Facilities, Coin Mining, and Solar and Wind Farms in Texas. I do agree that some growth is needed from time to time; however, there are too many unknowns about these types of projects in reference to the long-term impacts they have on our landscape and health to consider allowing these projects to be completed. Until the legislators have the facts laid out in reference to all the health and environmental risks and impacts that come from it and a clear path for this type of growth, I am asking again for a stop to be put in place until it can be investigated more.

Sincerely,

Thomas Jefferson Foley

Leon County, Texas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Foley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.