

Good morning, Judge and Commissioners.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Stacey. I am a resident of this county, and three years ago I made the decision to move back home so I could help ensure my parents were able to live out the rest of their lives safely and peacefully in the place my dad has always known. Like many families here, our roots run deep.

I'm here today to raise concerns about the proposed power plant expansion and the development of large data centers in our area. I want to be clear: progress and growth are not inherently bad. But growth without careful planning, transparency, and accountability puts residents at risk—and that's what worries many of us.

First, **traffic and road safety****.**

Our roads were not designed for heavy industrial traffic, construction convoys, or a sudden influx of commuters and contractors. Since moving back here 3 years ago, my dad and I have helped more than 4 people change flats in front of our homes due to the edge of the road drop off on 2210. Yes, I called tx dot. They put a band aid on it. It is back to the same condition as before. We have also seen more than four deaths at the intersection that is a mile from our home, and many more accidents than that. I have two children that are approaching driving age. It is a large concern for us. Increased traffic brings increased accidents, road damage, and emergency response

delays. I understand we have flashing light in place, that has not yet been turned on, but What plans are in place to widen roads, maintain them, and fund those upgrades before problems occur? And who pays for that—local taxpayers, or the companies profiting from this development? All proposed expansions and new builds have to pass through that intersection.

Second, taxes and property values.

While we're often told that industrial projects increase the tax base, the reality is more complicated. Rising infrastructure costs, emergency services, road repairs, and environmental monitoring often fall back on counties and residents. If industrial activity degrades air quality, water quality, or peace and quiet, property values for nearby homeowners can decline. What guarantees do residents have that our financial burden won't increase while our property values decrease? How do we know we could ever sell our home for the amount we needed to relocate?

Third, water use and contamination concerns.

Data centers and power plants require enormous amounts of water. We are deeply concerned about the strain this places on our water table and private wells. Equally concerning is how wastewater is handled. What safeguards are in place to prevent leaching of wastewater, chemicals, or byproducts back into our groundwater and existing systems? Once an aquifer is contaminated, the damage is not temporary—it can last generations. How will we hold these companies accountable?

Fourth, long-term health impacts.

Studies have shown correlations between large industrial facilities and increased risks of respiratory illness, cardiovascular issues, noise-related stress disorders, and other chronic health problems—particularly when emissions, cooling systems, and waste disposal are not strictly monitored. What independent, peer-reviewed data has been evaluated specific to our region, our wind patterns, our water systems, and our population? Are there any long term studies? And who will be responsible for long-term health monitoring if problems emerge years from now?

Fifth, employee accountability and public safety.

Residents are already seeing increased speeding on rural roads tied to industrial traffic. What enforceable agreements will require companies to hold employees and contractors accountable for reckless driving, racing, or unsafe behavior? We personally witnessed this with the Jack County power plant. Racing, throwing out beer bottles and other trash before reaching 199. Will there be zero-tolerance policies for drinking in vehicles or possessing alcohol on work sites? Will companies be required to have a security tower? How will those policies be enforced, and what penalties exist for violations? We also have ZERO patrol for safety in our area, unless we make a call. And the response time is long. Will there be increased coverage in our area?

Sixth, workforce transparency and security.

We are also asking hard—but reasonable—questions about who is being brought into our community. Will these companies conduct background checks? Will there be restrictions related to violent criminal history or sex offenders? If large workforces are brought in from outside the county, what systems are in place to ensure community safety and awareness? Residents deserve to know who is entering our area and how risks are being managed.

Finally, long-term responsibility.

If these facilities close, change ownership, or become obsolete, who is responsible for cleanup, remediation, and land restoration? Will bonds be required to ensure the county isn't left with abandoned infrastructure and contaminated land?

Commissioners, the people here are not anti-business. We are pro-community. We are pro-safety. We are pro-transparency.

We ask you to slow down, demand clear data, enforce binding agreements, and put residents first—because once our water is compromised, our health affected, or our rural character lost, there is no undo button.

I came back home so my parents—and families like mine—could live with peace, dignity, and security. I'm asking you today to protect that same future for all of us.

Thank you for your time and for listening.