

Re: Speach for commisioners meeting 7/20

cm Sndbrg <mes41177@gmail.com>
To: cm Sndbrg <mes41177@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 6:39 AM

Good morning

On the Fourth of July, my husband and I did something that, for most people, wouldn't seem extraordinary.

Because of my health, it was the first time I had been well enough to get back on our motorcycle since moving to Texas.

We decided to spend that day riding through Jack County.

We weren't looking for anything in particular.

We were simply taking in the beauty of the place.

Rolling hills.

Open ranchland.

The wildlife.

The sunsets.

The quiet.

The kind of freedom that comes from looking in every direction and seeing Texas instead of concrete.

As we rode, my husband and I looked at each other and said something that surprised us both.

"If we had ridden through Jack County before we bought our home, this is where we would have wanted to spend the rest of our lives."

My husband already drives 55 minutes to work every single day.

Buying in Jack County would have added another 20 to 25 minutes to that drive each way, for nearly the next 20 years until he retires.

And we both agreed it would have been worth it.

That's how beautiful this county is.

That's how special it is.

FILED FOR RECORD

_____ O'CLOCK _____ M

JUL 20 2026

VANESSA JAMES, County Clerk
JACK COUNTY, TEXAS

BY _____ DEPUTY

Ret: Speech for commissioners meeting 7/20

Mon Jul 20, 2020 at 6:30 AM

cm 2ndbrg <mesa4117@gmail.com>
For cm 2ndbrg <mesa4117@gmail.com>

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"If we had ridden through Jack County before we bought our home, this is where we would have wanted to spend the rest of our lives."

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And we both agreed it would have been worth it.

That's how beautiful the county is.

That's how special it is.

But today, I honestly don't know if we would make that same decision.

Because I look at what is being proposed for Jack County, and I wonder what that ride will look like ten years from now.

Will those rolling hills become industrial campuses?

Will those open views become power plants, substations, transmission lines, battery storage facilities, solar fields, wind projects, and hyperscale AI data centers?

Will one of the most beautiful drives in Texas become just another industrial corridor?

I didn't move to Texas to escape Illinois just to watch Texas become Illinois.

I moved here because places like Jack County still existed.

I moved here because there were still places where nature mattered more than industry.

I know there are discussions about growing tourism in Jacksboro.

But people don't travel hundreds of miles to look at data centers.

They come for the history.

The lakes.

The ranches.

The wildlife.

The open skies.

The sunsets.

The feeling that this is still Texas.

Once that landscape is industrialized, you cannot put it back.

There is no tax revenue, no incentive package, and no economic study that can recreate what nature took thousands of years to build.

Before you approve another industrial project, I ask you to think about the families like mine who come here looking for a different way of life.

Because the greatest asset Jack County has isn't something you can build.

It's something you've already been given.

Please don't be the generation that gives it away.

Thank you.

Thank you

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Good morning.

I was raised in what many people would call a concrete jungle. Although my roots are from what is considered the deep South, I spent most of my life in Illinois.

When my husband and I decided to move here, I thought this shirt would finally get packed away forever.

For those of you who can't read it, it says SAVAGE.

I wore it because, unfortunately, this is where I feel this community has been pushed.

Not because we're angry people.

Not because we're unreasonable.

But because we're no longer being heard.

When people asked me why I wanted to leave Illinois and move to Texas, my answer was simple.

I wanted a small-town, community.

I wanted neighbors who knew each other.

I wanted elected officials who listened to the people they represented.

And for a while, that's exactly what I found.

I found people who care deeply about this county, who volunteer, who support one another, who show up, and who simply want to protect the place they call home.

But somewhere along the way, many of us began to feel like our voices no longer mattered.

FILED FOR RECORD

_____ O'CLOCK _____ M

JUL 20 2026

NESSA JAMES, County Clerk
JACK COUNTY, TEXAS

BY _____ DEPUTY

We signed petitions.

We attended meetings.

We asked questions.

We organized.

We researched.

We showed up again and again.

Yet time after time, it feels like our concerns are brushed aside while the interests of billion-dollar corporations move forward.

So I have a question for this court.

At what point do ordinary citizens have to become savage just to be heard?

Because that's what this shirt represents.

Not hatred.

Not division.

Determination.

The determination of a community that refuses to quietly watch decisions be made that will forever change the place we chose to call home.

We elected you because we believed you would represent us.

Not the loudest lobbyists.

Not the biggest corporations.

Us.

If hundreds of your constituents continue to stand before you saying we do not want these AI data centers in our county, I ask you this:

What more do you need from us before you believe us?

Because we're here.

We're speaking.

We're paying attention.

And we're not going away.

Thank you.

Mary Sandberg
Bridgeport CT
Admin to the Jack/Wise County
Data Center Refusal Stamp