

Sheri Renaud

Lansing, NY 14887

November 2, 2025

**Lansing Town Board Members
Kathy Hochul NY's Governor
Kirsten Gillibrand US Senator
Josh Riley US Representative
Lea Webb NY State Senator
Anna Kelles NY State Representative**

Subject: Letter in Support of a Moratorium on the Land Use Development at the Cayuga Power Plant in Lansing, NY

Dear Honorable Town Board Members, United States and NY State Officials,

My name is Sheri Renaud, and I am a concerned citizen with property on Milliken Station Rd Ext., within the neighborhood that resides closest and adjacent to the power plant itself. I am writing on behalf of myself, my family and on behalf of the following individuals and families whose names are present on this letter.

We have come together as owners and residents of the neighborhood adjacent to the power plant to express strong support for a "Moratorium on Land Use Development."

Although we are in opposition to this type of development on the land in general, we believe a temporary pause on this development is necessary to prevent serious public health, financial and environmental harm and allow our town to create a comprehensive plan that better reflects our community's present and long term needs and vision. As mentioned in the Lansing Town Hall meeting on October 15, 2025, the current zoning regulations are inadequate for controlling the scale and impact that this development would incur. It will also allow for a regulatory review and impact studies to be initiated and completed.

Specifically, a moratorium would allow us to address several critical issues:

Community Health and Quality of Life Risks:

Air pollution:

Many data centers use backup diesel generators for power redundancy. During testing or outages, these can emit fine particulates (PM2.5), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and other pollutants, degrading local air quality.

Water use and contamination:

Cooling systems can consume large amounts of water or use chemical additives to prevent corrosion. If wastewater is not properly treated, it can harm local ecosystems or water supplies. This is particular concern because we all have shore wells and our water is drawn from the lake and immediate water table.

Noise pollution:

Constant operational noise from fans and chillers can be disruptive to nearby homes, schools, or wildlife, potentially affecting hearing over time, sleep quality, stress levels and overall mental health. The internal decibels of the servers is 90-96 Db, externally if the back up generators run could peak at 110Db. According to the Hearing Health Foundation sounds above 70 dB can damage hearing over time (<https://hearinghealthfoundation.org/keeplisting/decibels>, Retrieved 10/26/2025).

Light pollution:

Around-the-clock operations often require outdoor lighting for security and maintenance, can disrupt local wildlife and circadian rhythms for nearby residents. Artificial light at night is proven to disrupt bird migration and increase bird mortality (<https://www.fws.gov/story/threats-birds-collisions-nighttime-lighting>, Retrieved 10/26/2025).

Fire Risk:

Data centers contain dense electrical systems, high-energy batteries, and combustible materials (like cables and insulation). In particular, Lithium-ion batteries carry a risk of thermal runaway—resulting in fires that are difficult to extinguish and release toxic gases. If not properly designed, even a small electrical fault can escalate quickly in such high-density environments. This is of particular concern with the plant within a short distance to the first home within the neighborhood.

Infrastructure Strain:

The existing electrical grid infrastructure will be placed under even greater pressure and demand. As New York State Assemblywoman Anna Kelles told the *Ithaca Times*, the proposed data center at the Cayuga Power Plant is expected to use up to 400 megawatts of power—equivalent to the energy consumption of approximately 350,000 homes (*Ithaca.com*, retrieved October 26, 2025).

Across the nation, energy costs have risen by an average of 8% in communities where data centers are developed, with some areas experiencing increases as high as 25%. According to Blackhurst et al., “The digital infrastructure boom is outpacing our electricity system’s ability to respond. Data centers offer potential benefits but risk locking in higher emissions and driving up prices for households without proactive and coordinated planning. Policymakers must act now to align infrastructure investment and regulation with this demand surge” (*Data Center Growth*

Could Increase Electricity Bills 8% Nationally and As Much As 25% in Some Regional Markets, July 2025).

TeraWulf, the project's development company, has stated that it plans to power the facility with 138 megawatts of renewable energy, leaving 262 megawatts to be supplied by unspecified sources—likely fossil fuels (*Ithaca.com*). A temporary pause on the project would allow the town to study its potential impacts, including the strain on the electrical grid, the environmental consequences of continued fossil fuel use, and the probable increase in electricity costs for Lansing residents.

Environmental Impact:

The proposed development site lies adjacent to Cayuga Lake, an ecologically rich and diverse habitat that supports a wide range of plant and animal life, including:

Vascular plants (ferns, conifers, angiosperms, etc.): 1,265 native species; 777 non-native species

Non-vascular plants (mosses and liverworts): 48 species

Fungi: 26 species

Earthworms: 20 species

Insects: approximately 10,000 species

Land snails: 56 native species

Amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders): 16 native species

Reptiles (snakes): approximately 20 native species

Breeding birds: 150 species

Mammals: 55 native species

Fish: at least 90 species

(Source: Cayuga Nature Center, "Cayuga Lake Biodiversity," retrieved October 16, 2025)

Rushing into large-scale development without a comprehensive environmental impact study risks causing irreversible harm to this neighboring ecosystem. Proceeding without understanding the potential effects of fossil fuel combustion, noise and light pollution, and other unknown environmental stressors reflects an exclusionary and short-sighted approach to development. To move forward without pause is to disregard the intrinsic value of the living organisms that share this environment with us. Choosing not to pause and properly assess the potential threats to the land and surrounding ecosystem would be an irrevocably irresponsible decision—one with consequences that may extend for generations.

Furthermore, while TeraWulf has stated that the facility will not draw water directly from Cayuga Lake, it remains unclear where the required water will come from. This question must be answered transparently before the project advances, ensuring that regulatory bodies and the community have a full opportunity to evaluate the broader environmental implications of that decision.

If you need any further convincing look no further than the article published in Fingerlakes1.com, "Lansing residents call for answer as Terawulf data center plans unravel". This article highlights the history of the company to change terms midstream and as one resident in Somerset, NY where another facility was built stated "it's like a bait and switch, they're telling the public one thing, and telling investors something completely different". This article references the "24/7 noise, broken promises and lack of accountability" (<https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2025/10/09/lansing-residents-call-for-answers-as-terawulf-data-center-plans-unravel/>, retrieved Oct 26, 2025).

In consideration of each point in this letter, we urge you to adopt a moratorium on Land Use Development to allow for a period of comprehensive planning and understanding. This proactive step will ensure that if development continues, the future growth of the power plant is managed in a way that respects our environment, supports our infrastructure, and preserves the unique character of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. We, as property owners urge you to enforce a moratorium. We look forward to your positive action and welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,
Sheri Renaud



Lansing, NY 14887

	Property Owner Name	Address	Signature
1	Kimberly and Kevin DiGiacomo	Lansing, NY 14882	<u>Kim DiGiacomo</u> Kim DiGiacomo (New York, DOB 04-25-1977)
2	Sheri Renaud	Lansing NY 14882	<u>Sheri Renaud</u> Sheri Renaud (New York, DOB 10-27-1951)
3	Casey Pichay	Lansing NY 14882	<u>Casey Pichay</u>
4	Jennifer Marion	Lansing, NY 14882	<u>Jennifer R. Marion</u>
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From: Sheri Renaud [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 5:35 PM
To: Clerk's Office
Subject: Moratorium Public Comment letter
Attachments: Lansing NY Moratorium Letter.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please see this letter for submission in relation to the "Land use and development moratorium".
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Sheri Renaud