

Comments received October 29, 2025

From: Manager - ACRD Ithaca Gallery

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:04 AM

Subject: Protect Cayuga Lake — A Plea for Responsibility and Transparency

My name is Mason Bennett, and while I am not a resident of the Town of Lansing, I live here in Tompkins County, and like so many others, my life, livelihood, and sense of peace are intertwined with Cayuga Lake. I'm writing not as an outsider, but as a neighbor who shares the same water, breathes the same air, and believes deeply that what happens along this shoreline affects every person in our community.

What you decide in the coming days will ripple far beyond Lansing's borders. This isn't just about one parcel of land or one developer — it's about the kind of future we're choosing to build for this region.

Cayuga Lake is our inheritance. It's more than scenery; it's a living ecosystem that connects us — the farms, the villages, the colleges, the small businesses, the children who skip rocks along its banks. Once a body of water is compromised — once industrial runoff or thermal discharge upsets its balance — there is no clean slate to return to. The lake remembers everything we pour into it. We're being told that this massive data center will not draw water from Cayuga Lake. But a facility of this scale requires tremendous cooling and maintenance water from day one. Where is that water coming from? Are we really expected to believe it will be trucked in endlessly, day after day, year after year? The math doesn't make sense. Either the plan is incomplete, or it's being deliberately softened to avoid public pushback. And if the story already doesn't add up, it's fair to ask what else isn't true.

I've read through the public documents, the corporate letters, and the petitions. I've seen the same playbook used elsewhere — bold promises, reassurances of "minimal impact," and glossy claims about jobs and community benefit. But the truth is simple: data centers consume enormous energy, produce immense heat, require backup diesel generation, and strain fragile infrastructure. They are not green simply because they are digital.

Communities in Virginia, Oregon, and Arizona have already learned this lesson the hard way. These companies promised sustainability and transparency, but once the permits were granted, the reality was very different: massive water withdrawals, rising energy costs, and constant diesel generator noise. The corporations got their foothold and left residents to live with the consequences.

It's not cynicism to question them — it's common sense. Corporations say what they need to say to get approval. They present themselves as partners, but they answer to investors, not to neighbors. They can walk away from a bad deal; we cannot walk away from the land and water we depend on. Even beyond the water, the energy draw of this project is staggering. We're talking about a facility that would demand more power than entire neighborhoods combined — using a grid that already struggles to serve homes, farms, and small businesses. When those upgrades are needed, the costs won't fall on the corporation. They'll fall on us, the ratepayers, through higher NYSEG bills and infrastructure surcharges.

This doesn't look like progress. It looks like pressure. And Lansing has every right — and every obligation — to push back until transparency, data, and accountability are on the table.

The moratorium is not anti-business. It is responsible governance. It gives the town the space and the authority to ensure that what gets built here aligns with community values, not corporate deadlines. It says we will not make irreversible decisions in the dark, and we will not gamble with the health of Cayuga Lake for the sake of a sales pitch.

Please, stand firm in that. Complete the zoning rewrite, finish the environmental overlays, and demand full environmental impact disclosures — independently verified, publicly accessible, and specific. Require absolute clarity on water sources, cooling systems, emissions, noise, lighting, waste, and power draw before this project even approaches consideration.

Because this is about more than one development. It's about whether we still believe in local control, environmental stewardship, and the right of a community to protect its home.

If we allow profit to outweigh protection, if we accept corporate promises at face value without evidence, we will be remembered not as the generation that protected Cayuga Lake, but as the one that gambled it away.

Please, let this moratorium stand as a promise — that Lansing, and all of Tompkins County, will choose stewardship over speculation and community over convenience.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your willingness to listen. I ask you, as a neighbor and as someone who loves this land, protect the lake that protects us all.

From: Kerri Langlais

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:59 PM

Subject: Submission for Inclusion in the Public Record – Local Law No. 7 (Proposed Moratorium)

Dear Lansing Town Clerk,

Please accept the attached materials for **inclusion in the official public record** regarding Local Law No. 7 of 2025 (the proposed moratorium) currently before the Town of Lansing Town Board.

1. 10/27/25 Ithaca Times Guest Opinion by Anna Kelles, which has since been removed from [ithaca.com](https://www.ithaca.com)
2. 10/28/25 Cayuga Data Campus FB post in response to Ithaca Times Guest Opinion by Anna Kelles
3. 10/29/25 Cayuga Data Campus FB post regarding NYS PSC Chair Commentary re “Beneficiary Pays” policy on grid improvements.

Please confirm receipt of this submission and the date/time it has been entered into the public record.

Regards,

Kerri Langlais
Chief Strategy Officer

(Above referenced attachments have been uploaded to the public comments page as a separate document – please see “TeraWulf Submission for Inclusion in the Public Record – Local Law No. 7 (Proposed Moratorium) 10.29.2025”)

From: carrie

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:14 PM

Subject: Moratorium

I am opposed to the moratorium and support the construction of the data center

Submitted on Wednesday, October 29, 2025 - 2:28pm
Reese Moffatt

I'm very concerned the plans for a data center will negatively impact our local wildlife and also make NYSEG bills even more expensive. As it stands I am very against the idea and it sounds like Ithaca will get a bad deal out of it, or only a few will benefit, whereas the majority will not. It's easy to see why I'm skeptical; just look at how it's affected other cities.

From: Wendy Wallitt

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:38 PM

Subject: Public comment on moratorium

I'm writing to express strong support for the proposed land use moratorium that will halt the development of the Tera Wulf data center on Cayuga Lake and, hopefully, lead to its ultimate defeat. Although I am not a Lansing resident, I would be very much affected by the building of this data center. Not only would my NYSEG bills go up again from their already astronomical levels, but the data center's exorbitant use of electricity would significantly increase greenhouse emissions, create noise pollution, and make it impossible for New York State to meet its climate goals. I sympathize with Lansing's need to increase revenue and jobs following the closing of industries but this data center would create more hardships than benefits for Lansing residents and the region. Electricity prices would rise for everyone. Environmental damage would threaten our fragile ecosystem. The number of jobs added are likely to be minimal. I urge the Lansing Town Board to pass this moratorium, prevent the building of the data center, and seek more compatible sources of revenue and jobs for its residents.

From: Reese Moffatt

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:21 PM

Subject: Data Center Feedback

Ithaca has long been known for its environmental leadership and strong sense of community. The city has set ambitious goals to decarbonize by 2030, making it one of the few municipalities in the nation to take such bold climate action. A proposed data center development threatens to undermine these commitments, placing corporate interests above local sustainability. The project carries significant environmental, social, and economic risks that far outweigh any potential benefits.

The environmental impact of a data center in Ithaca would be severe. Data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity to power their servers around the clock. Even when developers claim to use renewable energy, the constant power demand can divert clean energy away from residents, small businesses, and essential services. This creates a hidden form of emissions leakage, as fossil fuel sources are used to fill gaps in supply when renewables cannot keep up. Furthermore, data centers require massive cooling systems that use millions of gallons of water every year. In an era of increasing drought risk, this would place unnecessary strain on the city's water system and undermine Ithaca's efforts to build climate resilience.

Economically, the data center would offer little benefit to local residents. After the construction phase, such facilities employ very few permanent workers, often fewer than thirty people. The supposed job creation is therefore minimal compared to the strain the project would place on local infrastructure. Upgrades to electrical substations, power lines, and water systems are often required, and these costs tend to fall on taxpayers rather than the corporations that profit. Because most data centers are owned by large out-of-town companies, the profits would leave the community while the environmental and financial burdens remain in Ithaca.

The proposal also conflicts with Ithaca's identity and land use priorities. The city's planning goals emphasize sustainability, small-scale innovation, and livable neighborhoods. Building a large, industrial facility dedicated to data processing contradicts the vision set out in the Ithaca Green New Deal and the city's 2030 carbon neutrality plan. Allowing one data center could set a dangerous precedent, opening the door to further industrial developments that do not align with the city's environmental and social values. In addition, data centers are not quiet neighbors. They generate constant noise from cooling systems and create light pollution that disrupts nearby residential areas and wildlife habitats.

Rejecting the data center does not mean rejecting progress. Ithaca can pursue economic development that aligns with its environmental goals. Investments in community solar, energy-efficient housing, and local manufacturing create more jobs per dollar spent and strengthen the city's resilience. The city could also support smaller, more sustainable computing initiatives through local institutions like Cornell University and Ithaca College, which already have the technical expertise and infrastructure to innovate responsibly.

In conclusion, the proposed data center in Ithaca represents a step backward for a city that has built its reputation on climate leadership and community values. The project would consume vast amounts of energy and water, provide few local benefits, and contradict the goals of the Ithaca Green New Deal. True progress means building an economy that serves the community while protecting the planet. Ithaca should reject this data center proposal and continue leading by example toward a sustainable, equitable future.

From: Kathy Dedrick

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:58 PM

Subject: Public Comment - Moratorium - Town of Lansing

My name is Kathleen Dedrick, I am a resident of the Town of Lansing 61 years (3rd generation and proud of it with 4th and 5th generations right here) and I would like to voice my **opposition** of a Moratorium in the Town of Lansing.

I do not feel that our board has done due diligence, this can not be just about the AI Center, Moratoriums have impacts on our towns fiscal future far in the future. Look at COVID one year of COVID and the financial landscape changed. A Moratorium has three components it needs to satisfy. a) Notification to Tompkins County not done b) a Financial report that outlines the possible impacts of our town not done and c) approval by our Town Planning and zoning boards all of which were not done.

You have had since 2018 to finalize this Comprehensive plan and you couldn't get it done a moratorium is not going to change this. You are targeting Terawulf and putting Lansing in legal jeopardy.

Again, I oppose this moratorium.

From: Elizabeth Wolanyk

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:38:07 AM

Subject: Somerset Resident reaction

As a resident of the Town of Somerset and recipient of the TeraWulf experience I am writing to share that claims made by Terawulf that everything is wonderful with their facility and relationship with facility neighbors is false. I live about three-quarters of a mile from the facility as the crow flies and the noise is a serious problem, especially at night. It disturbs my sleep almost every night. There

are people as far away as 2 1/2 miles from the facility who have also written to the town board to complain and many who attend town board meetings monthly to keep complaining. Unfortunately I cannot attend tonight's hearing/meeting with TeraWulf but I will be writing letters to the editor to local papers. If I were in state I would drive the 3-and-a-half hours to Lansing to express myself at the hearing to counter TeraWulf's claims. My comments are attached and a shorter version will appear in local papers to meet their requirements.

Copy of her comments attached to email:

Dear Members of the Lansing Town Board:

I understand that TeraWulf, Inc. has proposed a 'Data Center' for the closed powerplant in Lansing. This is very similar to what has happened in the town of Somerset along Lake Ontario and its coal plant. The promises they are making are also very similar. In fact, they are identical – this will be a great economic benefit; jobs, jobs, jobs; no harm to residents; no harm to the environment; noise is no issue; etc. The current Somerset facility is Lake Mariner Data, LLC. but there is more to come.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the hearing on October 29th because I am taking a 3-week vacation away from the noise of Lake Mariner Data so that I can sleep at night. I am writing from North Carolina. However, I would like to share my experience with TeraWulf, Inc. and their various LLCs.

TeraWulf, Inc. first proposed a data center with no mention that it would be a bitcoin mining operation. In their SEQR application, they stated that no neighbors would be disturbed by the operation. They did not disclose that they would be mining bitcoin. We had to discover that on our own. As soon as the bitcoin mining computers started running neighbors started complaining about the noise. I started having trouble sleeping at night, waking up at 3 am and not being able to go back to sleep. One night it seemed as though a jet was landing on the front lawn only it never landed. The noise was incredibly loud. The noise varies with intensity, but I now hear it about 80% of the time both day and night.

I believe that both sound and infrasound from the cooling fans disturbs my sleep. With each additional building it has gotten worse. Now, I have to contend with the pounding of beams being driven into the bedrock for the newest building and it begins at 7 am Monday through Saturday. There is no sleeping in after a late-night Bills game. My understanding is that the new proposed building will include two ten-hour shifts of construction - seven days a week. Pound, pound, pound!

We have been complaining for the last two and a half years. I am about ¾ of a mile from the site. Others are closer and suffer more. Others are further away – 2 ½ miles + for one family and they have complained in writing to the town board. We try to attend every town board and hearing and also the planning board. All the town sees is the tax revenue. So, after 6 months of complaints and our pointing out that they were in

violation of their SEQR application, the town asked Lake Mariner to conduct a sound study.

The sound study that Lake Mariner did and reported on presented that there was no problem. (They averaged the results.) The average noise at the entry gate at night was 49 ½ dB. Town law is maximum 50dB at night. The town took their verbal report as fact that there were no problems. However, reading the data clearly shows readings over 50dB in the middle of the night at several locations, hour after hour. One monitor showed that the sound never went below 80dB day or night. Of course, the response was that the monitor was faulty. When I pointed this out to the town board not a single board member reviewed the study's data. They do not want to hear it. So, Lake Mariner did a second study that also showed no problem. The second study did not include the data only depicted information with a set of indecipherable graphs. So, no one can investigate on their own. Yet, the complaints continue.

We are a very rural area so the people affected are relatively few in number, although the noise travels quite a distance depending on weather conditions. None of the Town Board members live close enough to be disturbed. So, our complaints are pushed aside in favor of tax revenue.

In addition to all this, TeraWulf has leased the remaining 1200 acres to Somerset Solar and the vast majority of it will be a solar facility. It will be 800 acres of actual solar panels, 3 miles of roads, fencing to keep out the deer, and buffer zones. A woods containing 200- year-old-trees will be taken down to host solar panels that will leech toxic chemicals into the ground water and only live 25 years and then become land-fill fodder. Because New York State has taken the right of local rule away from us with the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), our local opposition is unheeded. This solar facility will be placed on prime farmland and some land that is unique to New York and found nowhere else. This land will never be returned to its previous condition despite what they claim.

The Bald Eagles that nested on the plant property have abandoned their nest and suddenly the nest is now down. Pileated woodpeckers that used to watch me weed my vegetable garden and swoop over our lawn to travel to our woods have not been seen this summer and the great blue heron that used to fish in our pond is also gone. No environmental impacts? I think not.

In my opinion, Terewulf is not a good neighbor. Their practices have been deceitful or side- step issues they prefer not to address. Money is the only concern. Jobs will be minimal after construction is ended and benefits to the community are very limited – miniscule compare the bounty they will reap. LLCs limit their legal obligations. When the world wakes up to discover that bitcoin is a Ponzy scheme, AI and Data storage has been overbuilt across the U.S. they will flee after declaring bankruptcy. The community will be left with empty promises and abandoned buildings.

Do not believe that all is well in Somerset. Go to the Town of Somerset, NY website and read the minutes of the town board meetings for yourselves.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Wolanyk (redacted)
