

Written Testimony – HB 646

Technology and Innovation Study Commission

Name: Jami Valind

Location: Clinton County, Ohio

To the members of the Technology and Innovation Study Commission,

My name is Jami Valind, and I am a resident of Clinton County, Ohio. I am writing to support stronger oversight, transparency, and community involvement regarding large-scale data center development across our region.

These projects are moving quickly and carry significant long-term impacts on our land, water, electrical grid, emergency services, and local infrastructure. A single data center campus can require **100–300 megawatts of electricity**—comparable to tens of thousands of homes—and may consume **hundreds of thousands to millions of gallons of water per day**. In rural communities, this level of demand could strain limited resources and require costly infrastructure upgrades.

At the same time, many of these developments involve tax incentives and are planned with limited public awareness, sometimes under non-disclosure agreements. Residents are often learning about these projects after key decisions have already been made.

Transparency must be a priority. Communities should not be asked to absorb permanent, resource-intensive changes without clear, accessible information and meaningful input.

I respectfully urge the commission to:

- Require independent, publicly available impact studies before project approval
- Ensure full transparency in planning and incentive agreements
- Provide meaningful opportunities for community input prior to zoning changes
- Evaluate the cumulative impact on regional water and power resources
- Assess the true cost to local infrastructure and services

I also ask that consideration be given to pausing further approvals until these impacts are fully studied and shared with the public.

This is not about opposing progress—it is about ensuring it is responsible, informed, and sustainable for the communities it affects.

Progress without transparency is not progress—it's a decision made to communities, not with them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Jami Valind
Clinton County, Ohio