



BOARDMAN FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

FIRE CHIEF MIKE HUGHES

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7/11/2023

Morrow County Board of Commissioners
100 S Court St.
Heppner, OR 97836

Dear Chair Sykes, Vice-Chair Wenholz and Commissioner Drago:

I write today on behalf of the Boardman Fire Rescue District (BFRD) in strong support of Rowan Digital Infrastructure's proposed data center project in Morrow County. It is my understanding that the first hearing for the Rowan project took place before the County Planning Commission on June 27, 2023, with the second public hearing scheduled July 25, 2023, and a hearing before the Board of County Commissioners shortly thereafter.

Please include this letter in the official record for all upcoming hearings.

The BFRD supports this project for several reasons, but especially due to Rowan's commitment to partnering with us to ensure safety throughout all aspects of construction and operation. They have proactively sought out the expertise of the BFRD as they develop their approach to safety and emergency preparedness, which is greatly appreciated by our team, and which we expect will directly inform their final plans.

Beyond the BFRD, we understand Rowan is interested in building a long-term and mutually beneficial collaboration with stakeholders throughout the community. The economic potential of this project is profound – providing jobs and stability for Boardman families and communities around the county. Investments like this translate to stronger infrastructure for our county through increased tax revenue and more resources that allow our communities to grow efficiently.

Leadership at the BFRD is familiar with this specific property and works closely with the existing landowner, Threemile Canyon Farms. We are confident that Rowan is taking the necessary steps to minimize potential risk and prepare for all conceivable emergencies, including the risk of wildland fire and potential traffic accidents.

We are grateful for Rowan's proactive outreach and their commitment to transparency. Thank you for considering our support and we hope you will join us in welcoming them to the county.

Sincerely,

Mike Hughes
Fire Chief
Boardman Fire Rescue District