

GEODC

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation

proudly serving Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler counties

June 26, 2023

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

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

On behalf of the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC), I am pleased to offer our support for Rowan Digital Infrastructure's proposed data center project in Morrow County. GEODC encourages you to support this high-value, low-impact project.

I understand the first public hearing is before the Morrow County Planning Commission and will come before the Morrow County Board of Commissioners in the coming months; please enter this letter into the record for all hearings related to this project.

GEODC is a regional economic development non-profit 501(c)3 organization charged with supporting job creation and economic growth within our district; by assisting to create, retain, and expand businesses. GEODC teams with local government to develop human and physical infrastructure to support these businesses and the communities they serve.

Rowan's project aligns with GEODC's day to day work to attract new business investments and establish our region as an appealing destination for emerging technologies and the future workforce. By supporting projects like this, we aim to diversify the local tax base, enhance our region's competitiveness, and ensure its economic resilience.

We are excited about the potential of utilizing an economically unproductive parcel and transforming it into a highly profitable project with significant benefits for communities in Morrow County and beyond. The construction of this data center presents numerous advantages, including the creation of well-paid permanent jobs and a significant boost to eastern Oregon's economy. With this kind of local capital investment, this project will improve the livelihoods of all who live and work in eastern Oregon.

Moreover, we commend Rowan for their dedication to sustainable practices. This company's commitment to a cleaner and more sustainable future is much appreciated. We believe that this alignment with our values will not only benefit the residents of Morrow County but also position the entire region as a leader in environmentally responsible development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Christensen

Susan Christensen
Executive Director