

Bill Hansell
State Senator

District 29



OREGON STATE SENATE

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

July 25, 2023

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

As fellow elected officials representing Morrow County, I hope you will join me in support of Rowan Digital Infrastructure's proposed data center project.

Throughout my time as a state senator and my decades as a Umatilla County Commissioner, I have championed economic development projects that align with our region's proud agricultural history and values of conservation. My time in public service has been dedicated to expanding opportunity for my constituents and ensuring they have a sustainable future.

In that spirit, I encourage both the Morrow County Planning Commission and the Morrow County Board of Commissioners to approve the proposal from Rowan Digital Infrastructure.

As a lifelong resident of eastern Oregon, where my family has farmed for more than four generations, I respect and support the need to preserve productive agricultural land. However, the facts and testimony provided in this case indicate that the property in question has no agricultural value and could be put to much greater use with broad benefit for the region, particularly given its location to nearby industrial operations and existing and planned transmission infrastructure.

Rowan's approach to sustainable development is admirable and the benefits from their data center project will be felt throughout the region. The construction and operation of a new data center will bring high quality jobs, significant capital investment, and increased resources for our local governments, schools, law enforcement, and first responders.

I also understand that Rowan has prioritized community engagement as part of their work here in Morrow County, and has met with local officials, economic development organizations, and agricultural leaders as part of their outreach efforts – even before their application was submitted. This is a welcome approach to new development in our community and I look forward to continuing the collaboration with the team as their project progresses.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Hansell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Hansell
Oregon State Senator
District 29