

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION #26-22

URGING TRANSPARENCY AND A COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR DATA
CENTER DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, data centers are specialized facilities that house computing and networking systems used to store, process, and manage large volumes of data; and

WHEREAS, the demand for data centers has increased rapidly due to the growth of cloud computing and artificial intelligence, resulting in growing concern nationwide and within the State of Michigan regarding their environmental, infrastructure, and community impacts; and

WHEREAS, Alpena County is committed to local control, fiscal stewardship, and the protection of community resources, including water, energy infrastructure, and land use compatibility; and

WHEREAS, large-scale data centers typically require significant electrical and water resources, which may strain local utility systems, impact utility rates for residents, and create noise, heat, and other environmental or quality-of-life concerns for surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure that any proposed data center development aligns with Alpena County's long-term land use goals, infrastructure capacity, and the interests of residents and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, responsible regulation of data centers should include consideration of appropriate zoning districts, compatibility with surrounding land uses, setbacks from residential or sensitive areas, noise mitigation, screening of mechanical equipment, disclosure of anticipated energy and water usage, workforce impacts, and meaningful community engagement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Alpena County residents that any data center development occur within a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework that protects public resources, ensures transparency, and prevents unintended financial or environmental consequences.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the County of Alpena encourages all local governmental units to adopt a moratorium on the planning, construction, permitting, or expansion of any data center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners urges all relevant local governmental units, planning authorities, and electric utility providers serving Alpena County to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework governing proposed data centers development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners encourages transparency and public disclosure regarding any proposed data center project, including but not limited to the following information being made available to local officials and the public:

- The source of electrical power for the facility and its consistency with state and local clean energy goals;
- The anticipated water usage of the facility, including daily, monthly, and annual demand, and plans to mitigate impacts on water quality and availability;
- How electric utilities intend to meet the increased load demands without shifting costs to existing ratepayers or creating stranded infrastructure;
- What contractual protections, minimum usage requirements, or exit provisions will be in place to ensure local residents are not financially burdened if a project is reduced or abandoned; and
- What measures will be implemented to ensure environmental compliance, equitable cost allocation, and meaningful community benefit.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Alpena County Planning Commission, all municipalities within Alpena County, relevant state and federal legislative offices, and electric utility providers serving Alpena County.

ADOPTED THIS 27TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026