



January 21, 2025

**RE: HB 1239**

Representative Warrey and Members of the Committee:

After months of staff research, site visits to crypto-currency mining facilities and working with SRF Consulting, we proposed an amendment to our zoning ordinances allowing and regulating data centers & crypto-currency mining in Williams County. On January 2, 2024, the Williams County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 2024-01-02 which is an Ordinance Amending the 2015 Zoning Ordinance: Adding Regulations for Data Centers.

Our ordinance allows crypto-currency mining in the Agricultural and Heavy Industrial zoning districts with a Conditional Use Permit.

While drafting this ordinance, we determined that with the rural nature of Williams County and the fact that weather, temperature, wind, etc. can drastically change sound levels, setbacks were the most appropriate way to achieve sound mitigation for a data center. Because of this, Williams County does not have a noise ordinance. Also, we do not have certified equipment or staff to measure decibel levels.

Part of the proposed bill states:

*1. An individual may not be prohibited, restricted, or otherwise prevented from participating in digital asset mining in an area zoned for residential use if the individual engaging in digital asset mining complies with all county noise ordinances.*

This portion is concerning, because if a county does not have a noise ordinance, a crypto-currency mining operation could potentially be placed next door to homes with no restrictions.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend denial of HB 1239.

Thank you,

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