

KJR Comments
July 10, 2025
BOS Citizens Time

Good evening, I'm Kevin Ramundo and I have a few thoughts to share as President of Citizens for Fauquier County.

I'm sure you've been getting lots of emails and letters from your constituents and you see the numbers as a gauge of public sentiment on the Gigaland project. Let me offer some additional data points.

Three new grass-root organizations have been formed specifically to fight data centers -- Protect Fauquier, Protect Catlett and Protect Remington. Including CFFC and PEC, these organizations represent thousands of your citizens, and they are many more Fauquier residents opposing data centers belonging to other conservation groups.

These are robust and committed organizations. Collectively, CFFC, Protect Catlett, Protect Fauquier, and Protect Remington have 4,000 followers on Facebook. At CFFC, our membership has grown about 30 percent and contributions are up 15-fold. Our members strongly favor our efforts to minimize the proliferation of data centers and are voting with their hard-earned dollars.

Then there is the Amazon experience in Warrenton. As Cindy Burbank reminded me, over 2,300 citizens wrote and spoke against this data center. Over 250 people attended our community meeting in the fall of 2022 at Highland School and about 600 were there several months later when the Town Council ignored overwhelming

public opposition and approved the project. Less than a dozen spoke in favor of the data center at these two meetings.

And what about the town's most recent elections. Of the four council members who voted for the data center, three chose not to run and the one who did --- got beat. And the mayor -- a big fan of the data center --- only won by 11 votes against a much less known, you might say, long-shot opponent.

At the county planning commission meeting in June, Gigaland's supporters said the people of Remington wanted the project. Maybe they do and I respect their choice. But one has to wonder on what information are they relying. I know of no other community that has ever wanted a data center.

Even if the vocal few are representative of all of Remington, the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors is to represent the entire county. The dynamics of the data center industry are clear --- What happens in Remington won't stay in Remington.

I respectfully encourage you to reject this project and not start down a slippery slope of rezoning for more data centers and more transmission lines across Fauquier.

Gentlemen, you have a difficult decision ahead of you. I ask that you understand the wishes of your constituents, --- that you follow their wishes, and the recommendation of your Planning Commission --- and not the money.

Thank you.