



April 25, 2023

Compass Data Centers
14555 N. Dallas Parkway, Suite 125
Dallas, Texas 75254

QTS Realty Trust Inc.
12851 Foster Street
Overland Park, KS 66213

Dear Representatives of Quality Technology Services (QTS) and Compass Data Centers:

My name is Kyle Hart, and I am the Mid-Atlantic Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). I am writing to you today ahead of your poorly planned and unadvertised “open houses” for the Prince William Digital Gateway. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend either of these open houses, but I wanted to take a moment to provide you with some of the comments I would have this evening if I had been able to attend.

First, a little bit about me. I was born in Fairfax, Virginia and lived much of my young life just a few miles away from Manassas Battlefield. In the wintertime, my parents would take my brother and I sledding down the big hill near the Stone House at the park. This was a popular snow day activity for the kids in my neighborhood. After graduating college and moving back to the Northern Virginia area, my girlfriend, dog, and I regularly travel to Manassas Battlefield to hike the trails and learn about the deep history of the area. In 2022, I proposed to her in the park overlooking Bull Run. I say all of this not as a plea, but rather to show you all my deep personal connection and dedication to this area. I consider myself lucky every day to have my personal passions for protecting parks also be my professional career for NPCA.

The National Parks Conservation Association was founded in 1919, and our mission is to protect and enhance America’s National Parks for present and future generations. We have more than 1.7 million members and supporters nationwide, with over 43,000 of those individuals residing in Virginia. We have more than 150 staff all over the country, from Alaska to Florida and everywhere in between. And we have worked tirelessly as an organization for more than 100 years to fight threats to our national parks. The Prince William Digital Gateway is one of the worst threats we have ever seen.

Over the years, NPCA and our partners have fought numerous threats at Manassas National Battlefield Park. In the 1980s, NPCA and partners fought the proposed Williams Center Mall planned by developer John T. (Til) Hazel. In the 1990s, we fought the proposed Disney’s America, which would have built a massive amusement park five miles away from the battlefield. In the 2010s, NPCA and partners fought the proposed Bi-County Parkway which would have widened Pageland Lane, the area you now target for data centers and taken over four acres of the battlefield. If you take a moment to look around the areas of the proposed Prince William Digital Gateway, you will notice that there is no Williams Center, there is no Disney’s America, and there is no Bi-County Parkway. And just like those threats, in years to come we

will look back and gratefully know that there is no Prince William Digital Gateway. NPCA and our partners have a long history of defending Manassas Battlefield from terrible ideas. Prince William Digital Gateway is certainly the worst of these ideas, but in a sense, it is no different than the rest.

Despite what you have been led to believe, the opposition to Prince William Digital Gateway is not a small handful of local rabble-rousers and NIMBYs. Rather, it is a coordinated and effective group that spans the entire country. In our fight against the Prince William Digital Gateway, we have built a strong coalition of dozens of environmental and historic preservation nonprofits with a reach of millions of members over Virginia and the United States. In this fight, as in years past, NPCA certainly doesn't stand alone. I could rattle off the successful campaigns each of these organizations have run over the years stopping threats to national parks and our environment, but that list would fill many pages. Collectively, we are used to long and arduous fights against well-funded corporations such as yourselves. This fact doesn't scare us, but indeed it makes us stronger and more unified.

As you continue to go down this road, NPCA and our many partners would urge you to look for a more suitable location for data centers. It is certainly not too late to tactically retreat from this project. The alternative is a long, drawn out, and very public fight which will continue to paint QTS, Compass, and the entire data center industry as destructive of national parks and the environment and out-of-touch with the needs of Virginians. As we have been in decades past, NPCA is in this fight for the long haul, and we are not going anywhere or backing down until this project has been defeated in its entirety.

We thank you for your consideration of this very serious matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kyle W. Hart | Program Manager
Mid-Atlantic Region | National Parks Conservation Association
202-400-1193 | khart@npca.org