Coalition to Protect Prince William County - Questions Relating to Data Centers

For Virginia Congressional 7ᵗʰ and 10ᵗʰ District Candidates

1. Right now, data centers alone account for 20% of the electricity provided statewide by Dominion Energy, and over 50% of the electricity provided by NOVEC service territory. Those percentages are growing.   Do you think this is sustainable? What is your position on the growth of Data Centers in northern Virginia over the past decade?   *(Please provide response here)*

   In 2021 I proud to be one of the first legislators to write a letter to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors questioning the soundness of future development, and I was proud to be the chief co-patron for the first bill to pass the House of Delegates this year that would enable site assessments to examine the effects of data centers on water usage and carbon emissions within the locality. I took these actions because my core belief is that the government must listen to the community when considering development, and when it comes to data centers in northern Virginia, the community hasn't been heard. It is critical to the 21st Century economy that we have the infrastructure to power the AI Revolution and digital economy, but that can't be at the expense of livable communities.

2. The Coalition to Save Prince William County is currently participating in a lawsuit to block the Digital Gateway, which would site 23 million square feet of Data Centers within a half-mile of Manassas National Battlefield Park.   Will you support Federal legislation to prohibit Data Centers within close proximity of national parks and historic sites?   *(Please provide response here)*

   I believe that we must preserve the character of our protected lands both in VA-10 and across the country. Whether it's data centers or drilling, we need to ensure that public lands set aside for conservation and historical significance under current law remain protected, and I will continue to stand for this in Congress as I have in the House of Delegates.

3. The growth of Data Centers requires the use of additional power plants, mainly coal-fired and gas-fired, to provide sufficient "baseload" power, thereby nullifying the purpose of the Virginia Clean Economy Act passed in 2020.   Will you support Federal legislation to limit Data Centers by requiring that they only use renewable sources and comply with the federal governments energy star program ENERGY STAR NextGen Certification for Commercial Buildings | ENERGY STAR? *(Please provide response here)*

   As one of the Chief Co-Patrons of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, I strongly support moving all power generation to carbon free sources as quickly as possible and ensuring commercial development is built to conserve energy use. One reason we want to keep data centers in the United States, however, is that we want them to be subject to our

laws and regulations that will ensure a transition to renewable instead of offshoring them to the world's worst polluters. In Congress, I would work to craft legislation that ensures data center development meets aggressive energy portfolio standards that aggressively reduce carbon emissions as a result of Data Center development.

4. Given the explosive load demand from Data Centers that is triggering transmission lines which cross not only county boundaries but also state lines, is it appropriate that the Federal government usurp State authority by designating power corridors under the jurisdiction of NIETC? *(Please provide response here)*

   I believe that we need significant reforms to the structure and governance of the grid, and we need to do that at the federal level. This is an imperative not just to address the data center issue but to ensure that we make the transition to renewable energy sources rapidly to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. The current grid cannot support the renewable energy needs of the future, and I'm committed to ensuring through federal intervention to ensure that our grid meets our evolving clean energy needs. However, I remain committed to including the community's views in that process, which is why I have always championed legislation that does so.

5. Public utilities have a cost sharing structure that spreads investments for new transmission and generation across all rate payers. Given that the Data Center industry is the trigger for a significant portion of the new transmission and generation infrastructure, in what ways do you support a more appropriate cost shift to the data center industry? *(Please provide response here)*

   I have always believed that big business needs to pay its fair share in our economy whether that is in taxes or electricity rates, and I do not believe industry is paying its fair share here. I support efforts to ensure that business users pay their fair share, and it's not laid on the backs of consumers and would support such efforts in Congress.

6. As a federal official, in order to understand the cumulative impacts of the data center industry demand on power, water, and agricultural land, will you support a comprehensive report on the impacts to those critical resources? *(Please provide response here)*

   Absolutely - I was proud to support legislation this year in Richmond that, for the first time, passed the House of Delegates that enabled site assessments to assess the impact on water usage and carbon emissions of data centers on the community. I would support federal efforts to understand those impacts across the country.

7. Please share your understanding of the impacts of data center development on both ground and surface water resources. How would you address Data Centers' impervious surfaces impacts and water consumption to protect access to clean water? (Please provide response here*)*

   Data Centers can be massive consumers of groundwater through cooling systems while also creating impermeable barriers to surface water that contribute to erosion and pollution through runoff. At the federal level, we should prioritize driving the industry toward low water usage designs and use of permeable surfaces while ensuring data center siting mitigates potential issues around runoff and erosion.

8. Provide any additional information that outlines steps you have taken to protect citizens against data center proliferation. (Please provide response here)

   Whether it is introducing legislation to ensure community engagement or asking local officials to be thoughtful in siting of data centers, I'm proud to have been led on seeking to confront unmitigated data center development. We must chart a sustainable path forward for Virginia, the country, and the globe that recognizes the importance of the AI revolution and promise of digital technology, while also addressing the urgent need for better power sources, diminished footprint, and deep community engagement that protects our heritage and our homes.

9. Will you use your position as a member of Congress to speak to the issue of data center proliferation? (Please provide response here)

   I view climate change as one of the critical issues confronting our future and our national security. Getting data center policy right is going to be central to our ability to confront climate change, and I will be a vocal proponent of thoughtful solutions in Congress.