

# LENOWISCO PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 20, 2023

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## **Multi County Resolutions of Support for Data Centers Bolsters Southwest Virginia's Emerging Data Center Recruitment Efforts**

*~ Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson and the City of Norton Each Approve Resolutions Encouraging Data Center Recruitment in Southwest Virginia ~*

DUFFIELD, VA – A significant development in Southwest Virginia's emerging data center recruitment efforts has unfolded as multiple counties have come together to express their collective support for attracting data centers to the region. With a shared vision of fostering economic growth, the counties of Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson and the City of Norton (Membership of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority) have passed resolutions highlighting their commitment to welcoming data center investments.

The adoption of these multi-locality resolutions sends a strong message to the business community and industry leaders, emphasizing the unique opportunities and advantages available in Southwest Virginia. The region boasts a competitive workforce, robust infrastructure, and a favorable business climate that make it an ideal location for data centers seeking to expand or establish operations.

Data centers play a pivotal role in today's digital landscape, serving as critical infrastructure for the storage, processing, and distribution of vast amounts of information. Recognizing the immense potential of this industry, the collaborative efforts of Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson and the City of Norton aim to position Southwest Virginia as a premier destination for data center investments, capitalizing on the region's strategic location, reliable power supply, and competitive cost structure.

"We are thrilled to witness the proactive collaboration between the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority members in promoting our region as a prime location for data centers," said **Duane Miller, Executive Director of the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission**. "These combined efforts reflect a shared commitment to fostering innovation, creating jobs, and boosting economic development. By leveraging our strengths and resources, we are confident that Southwest Virginia will become a hub for cutting-edge technologies and a driving force in the digital economy," said Miller.



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*Virginia Planning District One • Serving Lee-Norton-Wise-Scott*



Previously during the Spring of 2021, the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority members also announced an agreement on what is one of the Commonwealth's lowest regional property tax rates on data center equipment. The member localities implemented a tax rate of \$0.24 per \$100 of assessed value with a favorable depreciation schedule, taking into account the capital cost of equipment and frequency of server replacement.

"These resolutions of support combined with the previously adopted regional data center equipment tax rate, competitively position the region for data center development not only throughout the Commonwealth, but across the nation," said **Will Payne, Managing Partner of Coalfield Strategies**, an advisor to the LPRIFA on data centers. "Furthermore, InvestSWVA's Project Oasis in coordination with the Energy DELTA Lab has created the blueprint for arguably the most innovative and energy efficient data center hub in the world, leveraging vast tracts of land that can provide security, on-site clean energy generation and abundant 52-degree water contained in former underground coal mine cavities."

As Southwest Virginia positions itself as an attractive destination for data center investments, the collaboration between Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson and the City of Norton serves as a model of regional cooperation and highlights the strength of partnerships in driving economic growth. The united support from these counties demonstrates a shared vision and determination to make Southwest Virginia a premier technology hub, attracting investments, creating high-quality jobs and fostering a vibrant and prosperous community.

Established in 1969, the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission is authorized under the Virginia Regional Cooperation Act to serve as one of the twenty-one planning district commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. LENOWISCO serves the Counties of Lee, Scott, Wise and the City of Norton.

###

**RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA CENTERS  
23-005**

**WHEREAS**, the growth and development of technology is essential to the continued economic prosperity of our region; and

**WHEREAS**, data centers have been proven to be a key component of the technology industry, providing significant job creation and economic benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Virginia is an ideal location for data centers due to its access to reliable and affordable energy and fiber-optic broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of data centers in Southwest Virginia would provide significant benefits to our local economy, including increased tax revenue, job creation, and infrastructure improvements;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Lee does enthusiastically support the establishment of data centers in our area and welcomes companies that seek to invest in our community;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County of Lee, as a member of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA), pledges to work collaboratively with companies seeking to establish data centers in our area to identify and address any concerns or issues that may arise during the development process;

**BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lonesome Pine RIFA member localities, including the County of Lee, has adopted a unified data center tax rate as a recruitment incentive to companies seeking to establish data centers in our area, in order to further promote economic growth and development.

Adopted this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.



  
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CLERK OF THE BOARD

## A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

**WHEREAS**, the growth and development of technology is essential to the continued economic prosperity of our region; and

**WHEREAS**, data centers have been proven to be a key component of the technology industry, providing significant job creation and economic benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Virginia is an ideal location for data centers due to its access to reliable and affordable energy, fiber-optic broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of data centers in Southwest Virginia would provide significant benefits to our local economy, including increased tax revenue, job creation, and infrastructure improvements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Norton does enthusiastically supports the establishment of data centers in our area and welcomes companies that seek to invest in our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Norton, as a member of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA), pledges to work collaboratively with companies seeking to establish data centers in our area to identify and address any concerns or issues that may arise during the development process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lonesome Pine RIFA member localities including the City of Norton, has adopted a unified data center tax rate as a recruitment incentive to companies seeking to establish data centers in our area, in order to further promote economic growth and development.

Adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of May 2023.

City of Norton, Virginia

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Wise County Board of Supervisors



Office of County Administrator

COURTHOUSE

WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

TELEPHONE 276-328-2321  
FAX 276-328-9780

P.O. BOX 570  
206 E. MAIN STREET

Resolution # -2023

A RESOLUTION OF WISE COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA CENTERS

WHEREAS, the growth and development of technology is essential to the continued economic prosperity of our region; and

WHEREAS, data centers have been proven to be a key component of the technology industry, providing significant job creation and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Virginia is an ideal location for data centers due to its access to reliable and affordable energy, fiber-optic broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of data centers in Southwest Virginia would provide significant benefits to our local economy, including increased tax revenue, job creation, and infrastructure improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Wise County, Virginia does enthusiastically support the establishment of data centers in our area and welcomes companies that seek to invest in our community; and

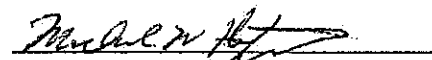
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wise County, Virginia, as a member of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA), pledges to work collaboratively with companies seeking to establish data centers in our area to identify and address any concerns or issues that may arise during the development process; and

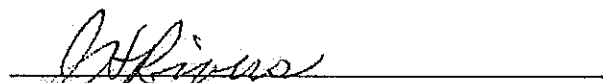
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lonesome Pine RIFA member localities, including Wise County, Virginia, has adopted a unified center tax rate as a recruitment incentive to companies seeking to establish data centers in our area, in order to further promote economic growth and development.

ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

  
Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

  
J. H. Rivers, Chairman

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

DARREL W. JETER  
MARSHALL D. TIPTON  
JEREMY P. HERRON  
MICHAEL K. BRICKEY  
DANNY P. MANN  
SELMA G. HOOD  
STEFANIE C. ADDINGTON

**We're a Natural**



**SCOTT COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
Freda R. Starnes

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GATE CITY, VIRGINIA 24251  
PHONE: (276) 386-6521  
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SCOTT

VIRGINIA

At a meeting of the Scott County Board of Supervisors begun and held in the Supervisors' meeting room located at the Community Services Building in Gate City, Virginia on Wednesday the 3rd day of May, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Darrel W. Jeter  
Marshall D. Tipton  
Jeremy P. Herron  
Danny P. Mann – Chairman  
Michael K. Brickey – Vice-Chairman  
Selma G. Hood  
Stefanie C. Addington

**ABSENT:** None.

On a motion by Marshall D. Tipton, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby adopts the following:

**RESOLUTION NO: 2023-04**

**Resolution in Support of Data Centers Locating in Southwest Virginia**

WHEREAS, the growth and development of technology is essential to the continued economic prosperity of our region; and

WHEREAS, data centers have been proven to be a key component of the technology industry, providing significant job creation and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Virginia is an ideal location for data centers due to its access to reliable and affordable energy, fiber-optic broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of data centers in Southwest Virginia would provide significant benefits to our local economy, including increased tax revenue, job creation, and infrastructure improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Scott County enthusiastically supports the establishment of data centers in our area and welcomes companies that seek to invest in our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Scott County, as a member of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA), pledges to work collaboratively with companies seeking to establish data centers in our area to identify and address any concerns or issues that may arise during the development process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lonesome Pine RIFA member localities including Scott County have adopted a unified and competitive data center tax rate as a recruitment incentive to companies seeking to establish data centers in our area, in order to further promote economic growth and development.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, Marshall D. Tipton, Jeremy P. Herron, Danny P. Mann, Michael K. Brickey  
Selma G. Hood, Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.



CLERK

C: Craig Seaver ✓  
Freda Starnes

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, the growth and development of technology is essential to the continued economic prosperity of our region; and

**WHEREAS**, data centers have been proven to be a key component of the technology industry, providing significant job creation and economic benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Virginia is an ideal location for data centers due to its access to reliable and affordable energy, fiber-optic broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of data centers in Southwest Virginia would provide significant benefits to our local economy, including increased tax revenue, job creation, and infrastructure improvements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of Dickenson County does enthusiastically support the establishment of data centers in our area and welcomes companies that seek to invest in our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Dickenson County, as a member of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA), pledges to work collaboratively with companies seeking to establish data centers in our area to identify and address any concerns or issues that may arise during the development process; and

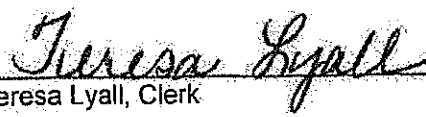
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lonesome Pine Regional member localities including Dickenson County, has adopted a unified data center tax abatement incentive to companies seeking to establish data centers in our area to attract investment and promote economic growth and development.

Adopted this 23 day of May,

*Dana ?  
Data Center*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Evans, Chairman  
Dickenson County Board of Supervisors

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Lyall, Clerk