

## **A Letter from the Van Gilder Family**

Neighbors,

For generations, our family has lived, farmed, and raised our children here in the community. This land isn't just where we work, it's where we've built our lives, where our children play, and where we hope our grandchildren will grow.

When we were first approached about a data center, we didn't take the conversation lightly. Selling a piece of our HOME farm was not something we ever imagined. But as we listened and learned, we came to see this as more than a project. It's about the future of our community.

We are living in a time of rapid change. Just as electricity, railroads, and the automobile transformed past generations, technology and data are shaping the world today. We believe this moment is nothing less than the Industrial Revolution of our time.

We believe this project isn't just about jobs or tax dollars. It's about opening doors for the next generation:

- A place where our children and grandchildren can find opportunity in technology and the trades without having to leave home.
- Stronger schools with the resources to prepare students for those opportunities.
- Local businesses that grow stronger as the community around them grows stronger.
- A future where farming and technology work side by side, honoring tradition while embracing progress.

We know change can be unsettling. We don't claim to have all the answers, but we do believe our community deserves to have a seat at the table in shaping what comes next.

As farmers, we've always planted seeds for tomorrow. This project is another kind of planting, an investment in the kind of community we leave behind.

With gratitude and hope for the future,

The Van Gilder Family