



City of Charles Town

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October 14, 2026

MAYOR
Micheal George

The Honorable Patrick Morrisey
Governor of West Virginia
Office of the Governor
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Jefferson County Good Neighbor Data Center Guardrails

**CITY
COUNCIL**

James Kratonvil
Elizabeth Ricketts
Jeff Hynes
Kevin Tester
Nate Hartman
Alden Roth
Julie Smith
Andie Sugrue

Dear Governor Morrisey:

On behalf of the Charles Town City Council, we respectfully submit the attached Good Neighbor Data Center Guardrails and request these collective and locally developed protections be prioritized in the State's analysis of data center development impacting Jefferson County and local municipalities.

House Bill 2014 significantly restricts local government authority over impactful data center development. The associated guardrails attached reflect the community's thoughtful concerns, priorities, environmental considerations, and long-term character of our communities. Municipal governments are closest to the residents and businesses affected by major development decisions and our responsibility is to ensure that growth aligns with comprehensive plans, infrastructure capacity, and public safety needs. While these Good Neighbor Guidelines are a constructive step toward encouraging responsible data center development, HB 2014 significantly limits the ability of municipalities and counties to apply local control to data centers. As such, these current restrictions undermine the principle that communities should have a meaningful voice in determining how development occurs within local jurisdictions.

**CITY
MANAGER**

Alissa Meeks,
Interim

Further, we are also concerned about the distribution of tax revenue generated by data centers as outlined in HB 2014. Under the statutory framework established by HB 2014, a portion of incremental tax revenue is distributed to the state and other designated recipients rather than remaining entirely within the jurisdiction where the development is located. The distribution formula raises legitimate questions about whether the communities bearing the direct impacts of development receive a proportionate share of the resulting public revenue and where the real associated development and impacts occur.

We appreciate your commitment to ensuring local input and we are confident that by collaboratively working together, West Virginia can welcome economic investment while simultaneously respecting local decision-making. We respectfully ask that your administration work with municipal leaders to revisit these concerns and pursue a more balanced approach to data center development.

Sincerely,

Micheal George,
Mayor