

Residents Respond to Village Pre-Annexation Agreement Announcement with QTS

DEFOREST, WI – Following the Village's January 9 release touting the draft Pre-Annexation Agreement with QTS, concerned residents of DeForest urge caution, transparency, and further analysis before any annexation decisions.

While the Village highlights potential benefits such as property tax reductions, environmental safeguards, and community investments, residents emphasize that these benefits are projections, not guarantees, and that significant risks remain.

Key resident concerns include:

Financial Uncertainty:

Projected property tax savings assume a minimum \$1.2 billion valuation, which may not be realized. Long-term maintenance, infrastructure wear, and unforeseen costs could offset anticipated benefits.

Environmental Impact:

Closed-loop water systems and gray water reuse are positive steps but do not fully eliminate the risk to local aquifers and ecosystems. Energy consumption and heat generation from a large-scale data center remain significant concerns for the community and regional infrastructure.

Quality of Life and Neighborhood Character:

Noise, light, and industrial activity could affect surrounding residents. Buyout clauses and mitigation measures cannot compensate for community disruption and lost residential character.

Enforceability and Oversight:

Protections rely on company compliance and ongoing Village monitoring, raising questions about long-term enforceability. Residents call for independent environmental, traffic, and economic impact studies before the Village proceeds with any annexation or development approvals.

"We support careful planning and strategic investment in DeForest," said a group spokesperson. "But our community deserves a thorough, independent review to ensure that risks are understood, benefits are real, and our quality of life is protected for decades to come."

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