

"Good evening. My name is Owen Kurdenok, and I am the lead handler and manager of our boarding facility. Kristin and Lori have already laid out the financial insults and the backroom legal maneuvering. I am here to talk about the physical reality of what you are destroying, and the message you are sending to the next generation of Coal City. This property isn't just a dot on a zoning map. It is a specialized workplace that I have spent years building alongside my mom after my dad passed away. It is my comfort, my livelihood, and my daily job. We have heavily invested in this facility, creating specialized infrastructure to serve our clients. To see this Board treat an operational, local business as a mere obstacle to be bulldozed for a data center shows a complete disconnect from reality.

As a 20-year-old, I live here, I work here, and I had planned to invest my future in this community. You claim this data center will bring a modern, 'tech' future to Coal City. But what kind of future is built by displacing the very entrepreneurs who are already here doing the work?

Young people pay attention to how local government operates. If your blueprint for the future involves closed doors, hiding records, and sacrificing a military family and a local employer to a billion-dollar corporation—why would anyone my age choose to stay and build a business here?

You cannot build a thriving future for this town by selling out the neighbors who have already invested in it. Thank you."

Good evening. My name is Lori Cora. Like my neighbor Kristin, I am a resident, a widow, and a business owner whose livelihood is directly threatened by this proposed data center. Kristin has already laid bare the insulting, bad-faith financial offers being made by these developers. I am here to address something even more concerning: the complicity of this Village Board.

For months, we were told this project was in its early stages. But the Village's own legal bills tell a very different story. I have seen the invoices from Ancel Glink. On February 2, 2026, your attorney was already billing for 'site aggregation' involving the Reed Group.

This means while I was working to maintain my business and my home, the Village was already paying a lawyer to map out how to piece our private land together for a developer. How can you claim to be transparent when you were legally engineering the takeover of our properties in secret?

Kristin mentioned the 'high priority' label placed on our homes. But being a priority to this Board apparently doesn't mean being protected. It means you use taxpayer-funded attorneys to redact FOIA records, shield the process from the public, and quietly pave the way for a billion-dollar corporation.

I am standing here tonight to tell you that we are not just 'aggregation' targets on a map. We are business owners, we are widows, and we are the very taxpayers whose money you used to plan our removal. I hope this Board to stop acting as a concierge service for Aligned Data and the Reed Group, and start acting as a shield for the citizens you were elected to represent.

Thank you."

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the board, and fellow residents,

My name is Alana Phillips, and I am here tonight speaking not only for myself, but for my mother, my sister, and the future of families who call this community home.

Right now, a massive data center is being proposed just a few hundred feet away from the home where my mother and sister live. This is not empty land to us. This is where our family has built a life. It is where my mother has worked tirelessly to build not one, but three businesses out of her home. It is her livelihood. It is her investment. It is her future.

Back in 2024, the Reed Group approached our family regarding this development. Since then, there have been conversations about land, expansion, and what this project could become all behind closed doors. But what has not happened is a fair offer that would allow my mother to realistically rebuild everything she would lose. You cannot replace decades of hard work, loyal customers, reputation, and stability with an offer that does not even allow someone to properly start over.

What makes this even more concerning is that the Village Board continues to state publicly that no official plans for this data center have been submitted. Yet despite that, families are already being approached, land discussions are happening, and residents are being left wondering what is truly being planned around them. How are residents supposed to trust this process when there is so much uncertainty and so few answers?

Small towns like Coal City were built around families, neighborhoods, small businesses, and peace. Data centers are industrial operations. They bring constant generator noise, cooling systems running 24 hours a day, increased traffic, enormous power demands, and major changes to the character of a community. These facilities may look quiet on paper, but the reality is very different when they are sitting directly outside someone's front door.

The people making these decisions may not have to live beside the humming equipment, the industrial lighting, or the disruption. But my family will.

What concerns me most is the message this sends to residents. Are families and small business owners expected to simply move aside for corporations with deeper pockets? Are longtime residents supposed to accept being surrounded by industrial development because someone decided our homes are less valuable than commercial expansion?

This is not just about land. It is about fairness. It is about transparency. It is about protecting the people who already live here. It is about whether small-town residents still have a voice when major corporations come in with big promises and billion-dollar projects.

Economic growth should never come at the cost of destroying the lives of the people who built this community in the first place.

I ask this board tonight to truly consider the human impact of this project. Consider the families. Consider the businesses. Consider the residents who will have to live with these decisions long after the developers leave town.

Because once the character of a small town is gone, you do not get it back.

Thank you.