Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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Statement on Readoption of the current Sanford/Broadway/Lee County Unified Development Ordinance

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) supports the Lee County community's concerns about Lee County, City of Sanford, and the Town of Broadway's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) re-adoption process due to its impact on its data center regulations.

Yesterday evening all three planning boards met to provide recommendations on whether to re-adopt their UDOs due to acknowledged procedural errors in how they were initially enacted. Included in this re-adoption is the data center amendment from April this year which created a set of inadequate regulations that allowed for a large data center to be approved on Lower Moncure Road. A construction permit for that data center was issued on September 25, 2026. Due to the procedural errors, these should be invalid. All three planning boards approved the re-adoption despite the fact that it was revealed that there were 25 years of decisions which skipped required procedural steps; this does not comply with state law.

The planning board meetings last night and the follow-on final decision meetings for the City of Sanford (November 17), Town of Broadway (November 23), and Lee County Commission (November 16) are all opportunities for community members to show up and have their voices heard on how data center moratoriums need to be enacted so that they can take adequate time to draft real, enforceable protections rather than rushing through this process a second time.

The Lee County community deserves full transparency and effective data center regulation.