IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ESTABLISHES DATA CENTER TASK FORCE

Champaign County, IL – A recommendation to create a task force charged with developing zoning and permitting recommendations for data center development in unincorporated Champaign County was authorized by the Environment and Land Use Committee last night at their monthly meeting. The recommendation now moves to the Champaign County Board for approval at their February meeting.

The task force is asking for participation from representatives of local labor, economic development, environmental experts, and farming, and intends to begin meeting before the end of March. They will examine zoning classification and land use standards, electric, water, wastewater, agricultural resource, and transportation impacts, public safety and emergency response considerations, and compatibility with surrounding agricultural, residential, and commercial use.

In a separate effort, through the Zoning Board of Appeals, the County is completing the required steps to implement a 12-month moratorium on data centers with at least 10,000 square feet of processing area.

"Data centers are a growing consideration for counties," says Champaign County Director of Administration Michelle Jett, "and we want to thoroughly review the pros and cons, hear from the residents, and make an informed decision on how we will move forward on this issue. If the public would like to provide input to the Board on whether to approve the resolution creating the task force, they can email countyboard@champaigncountyil.gov or attend the meeting on the 19th."

"We appreciate community engagement on these important issues," says ELUC Chair Eric Thorsland, "their input in invaluable and I hope to hear from many people about this issue."

The Champaign County Board meeting is Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30pm in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room at the Bennett Administrative Center, 102 E Main Street, Urbana, IL.