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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Limited Moratorium on Data Processing Facilities Madison County, NC – June 16, 2023**

The Madison County Board of Commissioners enacted a twelve (12) month limited moratorium on data processing facility land uses on June 13, 2023, as a proactive step was taken to address the growing prevalence of data processing facilities, commonly known as data centers that would fall within the County's jurisdiction. The moratorium includes data processing center land uses and crypto-mining operations which play vital roles in storing, processing, and distributing large volumes of data and supporting computationally-intensive applications such as blockchain technology, cryptocurrency mining, weather modeling, genome sequencing, and other data-intensive processes.

This temporary measure will allow the County to thoroughly study the potential impacts of data processing facilities and develop appropriate regulations while allowing for the development of a regulatory framework specifically designed for data processing facilities to be established to ensure that the County's Land Use Ordinance remains relevant and effective while continuing to provide cohesiveness within the community. It will also ensure informed decision-making and responsible development practices including assessment of infrastructure requirements, energy consumption, environmental impact, and potential economic benefits or risks associated with potential data processing facilities that may be located within Madison County.

"Our decision to implement a twelve (12) month moratorium on data processing center land uses reflects our commitment to responsible and sustainable development," said Rod Honeycutt, Madison County Manager. "During this period, we will conduct thorough research, engage with the community, and establish regulations that strike a balance between accommodating industry growth and preserving the interests of our residents. This proactive approach ensures that Madison County remains a thriving and harmonious community for all." Multiple opportunities for engagement with members of the community, experts, and stakeholders will be facilitated by the County.

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