OPINION

THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

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COMMENT LINE – 606-564-9091 ext. 1251

Letter to the Editor

Dennis McKay

Dear Editor and residents of the Maysville community,

I am writing this letter in support of Victor McKay who is running for re-election as Maysville City Commissioner.

In his current position as Maysville City Commissioner, Victor is known and respected as a vocal advocate for the people of Maysville. As a lifelong resident of Maysville, Victor knows well the opportunities and challenges faced by the residents of our beautiful river city. I often hear complaints about Victor's work ethic, dedication to problem solving, and love for his community. Victor is passionate about making Maysville a community where people really can build a life and a future.

Victor learned these qualities from our parents, Pat and Jane McKay. Our parents exemplified a devotion to hard work, faith and family, and Victor exhibits these same qualities in his personal and professional life. As his brother, I can attest to Victor's love and concern for his family, friends and fellow community members. Victor always seems to find the time to listen to and engage with other people. This was true of Victor as a child and is definitely true of him today. I deeply admire my brother's desire and willingness to give back to his community.

My family and I would sincerely appreciate your support for Victor McKay on or before Tuesday, November 3rd. Please remember to exercise your right to vote.

Sincerely, Dennis McKay

HOW YOU SEE IT

EDITOR'S NOTE: When leaving a comment for the Comment Line, please limit your message to one minute. This allows us to ensure fairness in publishing messages that we receive. Messages that use foul language or cursing will not be published. Thank you.

Sample ballots

When in the world are you going to put a Mason County sample ballot in the newspaper? It doesn't do a lot of good if you wait 'til the election to get it in there. You've already posted Bracken County and I'm sure the other counties are going to be in there soon but we want to see one from Mason County. That would be a major help if you would just get it in the paper as soon as possible.

(Editor's Note: The Mason County Clerk has scheduled sample ballots to appear in The Ledger Independent on Oct. 28 and Oct. 31)

Recycled news

I wonder if there's a shortage of news in the Maysville area because there's really nothing to print in the paper much anymore. Every week, the weekly horoscope is the same as it was the week before. The crossword puzzle is the same as it was the week before. If you don't have something else to put on the page except the same thing, something new. It might be really interesting.

The Comment Line is 606-564-9091 ext. 1251. A tape recorder is used to record messages. Please speak slowly and clearly and keep background noises low. It is not necessary to leave your name in order to participate in the Comment Line, however we ask that callers not dominate the medium. The Ledger Independent reserves the right to edit comments for libel, obscenities or other inappropriate material.

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Letter to the Editor

Big, bad things happening in Mason County?

Janet Garrison

We Are Mason County KY, Inc. is very concerned about the loose ends that remain beyond Fiscal Court's approval of the revenue and tax incentive agreement with Crisham LLC (Meta). Several questions and concerns remain unanswered such as:

1. Why was Fiscal Court against establishing regulations for infrasound and low-frequency noise in the adopted data center ordinance? Our research indicates that the health of people, animals, and wildlife is negatively impacted by infrasound and low-frequency noise emitted by hyperscale data centers. Employees of the data center will be affected by infrasound and low-frequency noise too. So, if you are hoping you or your children will be employed there someday, this should be a concern for you too.

We have been in contact with professors at the University of Kentucky and Saint Louis University who specialize in studying the impact of infrasound and low-frequency noise. Both professors are willing to work with us on assessing the health threat of noise from hyperscale data centers. Since hyperscale data centers have only been in existence for a few years, no comprehensive studies on their environmental and health impacts have been conducted. We need a science-based, comprehensive study to separate fact from fiction. We need to identify the health threats and address those BEFORE a hyperscale data center is built in Mason County. For more information, please visit: https://www.fowlerfinnlab.com/noise-policy.

Crisham LLC (Meta) needs to be proactive and address this issue during the campus design stage and not rely on noise simulations or mitigation efforts after it is built. Such efforts have not worked elsewhere so why not add the protections now to be safe instead of sorry. Tanner Nichols (FBT Gibbons) has stated that Crisham LLC (Meta) will comply with all ordinances and regulations. So, why didn't Fiscal Court stand up for the community and amend the current ordinance to address the infrasound and low-frequency noise issue BEFORE entering into an agreement with Crisham LLC (Meta)?

The recently approved Development and Community Revenue Agreement locks the County into a 40-year agreement that specifies no changes are allowed to the data center ordinance, and no moratoriums or other regulations are allowed in the future that could apply to THIS project "unless it is (i) reasonably found by the County to be necessary to the public health and safety of the residents of the County" (Page 16). Our pleas for infrasound and low-frequency noise protections were ignored by the current Fiscal Court so it is doubtful they will pursue any changes to protect public health and safety at this point. We fear this agreement hinders future Fiscal Court actions to protect our community from negative impacts from the Crisham LLC (Meta) data center. Plus, important exhibits within the agreement released to the public are left blank - such as the map of the 2,900 acres – so we do not know where the additional 820 acres is located. (See pages 3 and 15... Exhibit pages starting on page 44). Here is the link to the Fiscal Court's data center document center: https://cms3.revize.com/revize/masoncountyky/Document%20Center.php#outer-737

2. We still have two civil complaints pending at the Court of Appeals and Grant County Circuit Court (the local circuit judge was disqualified from our second case, so it was transferred to Grant County). The Appeal is to amend the data center ordinance to include protections for infrasound and low-frequency noise. The Grant County case challenges the rezoning ordinance where the identity of the owner / operator was hidden from the public. Both of those cases should have been resolved BEFORE the Fiscal Court rushed into an agreement with Crisham LLC (Meta). Such behavior sets a very dangerous precedent and essentially puts constituent concerns below corporate partnerships.

3. Why were no provisions or assurances included within the agreement for Highland Heights and Meadowland Village residents? Since April 2026, Highland Heights residents have been told repeatedly that they would receive offers on their homes "within the next two weeks" but none of them have received anything to date. To our knowledge, Meadowland Village residents have not received anything in writing to guarantee the promised $50,000 for moving expenses. These residents will be impacted greatly by this project. If Crisham LLC (Meta) is serious about being a good neighbor, the needs and concerns of Highland Heights and Meadowland Village should have been addressed first before any discussions about an IRB, tax incentives, or revenue projections.

4. Why is the ceiling for the industrial revenue bond set so high at $800 billion? At other Meta data center locations, the IRB was not nearly that high. The IRB ceiling was set at $70 billion for Los Lunas New Mexico and $165 billion at Richland Parish Louisiana. If each building is $10 billion and they upgrade the servers 10 times (every 4 years) at a cost of $500 million that still only adds up to $65 billion which is a far cry from $800 billion. It just seems to be a very large slush fund.

5. What is the purpose of creating a "Designated County Industrial District" for the proposed site? Is this a maneuver by the company to push for the data center to be classified as an industrial / manufacturing facility? If that is approved, then they will be exempt from the utility tax which the agreement has stated will pay $10 million per building to the school system.

6. Where is the proof that EKPC has the capacity to service the data center? Has an energy plan been approved by PSC and made public? What might be involved under the Alternative Energy section on Page 15? It states "The County acknowledges that the Company is exploring (but shall not be obligated to pursue) options to use allowable alternative energy sources to operate the project or a portion thereof. The County represents to the Company that such alternative energy sources are permitted uses on the Property under the Applicable Rules." Does that mean the County will allow a gas turbine plant or small modular reactor (SMR) for nuclear power on the property? Meta has already signed deals with SMRs for a few of their other AI hyperscale data centers.

7. In our meeting with Senator Steve West this past spring, he mentioned that Mason County could pursue funds from the state to help build a regional water plant. So, Crisham LLC (Meta) is not our only option.

8. Results from a KY Division of Water open records request revealed five sites were evaluated by Stantec. "Additional Property" (on Page 18) is also to be grandfathered in under this agreement (possibly coming to a backyard near you). The five sites are listed below (see map and full Project Crisham Permit Application document at Https://WeAreMasonCountyKY.org):

· Preferred Site – The rezoned 2,080-acre site within the bounds of Germantown Road, Valley Pike, Minerva-Tuckahoe Road, and Tuckahoe Road (including Big Pond Pike). No location information about the additional 820 acres.

· Alternate Site 1 – 1,567 acres. Bounded by KY 9 AA Highway and KY 10 (North), Clarks Run (West and South) and Barrett Pike (East).

· Alternate Site 2 – 2,163 acres. East of Preferred Site. Bounded by Germantown Road (West and North), Clyde Barbour Boulevard (East) and AA Highway (South).

· Alternate Site 3 – 1,519 acres. Bounded by Clyde Barbour Boulevard (West), Jersey Ridge (North), west edge of Country Club Deerfield Golf Course (East) and AA Highway (South).

· Alternate Site 4 – 1,247 acres. Located in Adams County Ohio at the former DP&L Stuart decommissioned coal plant brownfield property.

9. Only officials who signed NDAs and a few privileged individuals have been included in discussions about the data center so "community involvement" has been kept to a minimum. They never answered our questions - we submitted 93 questions for the data center developer to Fiscal Court in March and again in May. Our group sat in on the Comprehensive Plan Update meetings. We drafted a section for the Comprehensive Plan to address land use for data centers and put some restrictions that we felt were important. Fiscal Court and the Joint Planning & Zoning Commission refused to include our edit. So, our Comprehensive Plan still does not include anything about data centers.

10. And finally, we still do not have a publicly available community benefit agreement, community health assessment, or environmental assessment. Still no real proof that Crisham LLC (Meta) intends to be a "first in class" good neighbor.

Please use the links in this letter and review the information carefully before you vote. Thank you in advance for accepting my letter and for keeping the community informed on this matter. We need to PAUSE TO PROTECT our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Janet Garrison
Dover, KY