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PRESS RELEASE: Communities Must Decide the Future of Their Land, Water, & Way of Life

LEON COUNTY, TX: Following his attendance at the **Leon County Citizens Against Marquez Data & Storage Center Town Hall Meeting**, Rob Altman, candidate for Congress in Texas's 10th District, released the following statement regarding the proposed large-scale data-center development in Leon County:

“After listening directly to the people of Leon County, one thing is clear: this decision belongs to them.

Not to outside corporations, not to distant regulators, & not to politicians looking for shortcuts.

If a community does not want a project, they should not be forced to live with its consequences. & if a private company wants to build here, it must do so transparently, responsibly, & on terms the community agrees to.”

Altman attended the town hall to hear residents' concerns firsthand, including questions about long-term water security, strain on local infrastructure, environmental impact, & the preservation of Leon County's rural character.

“Projects of this scale are not ordinary developments — they are generational decisions,” Altman said.

“When a proposal places real risk on a community's water, land, & way of life, the people deserve full transparency & a real say before anything moves forward.”

Altman's Principles on Major Industrial Development

Altman outlined three non-negotiable principles that should guide any project of this magnitude:

1. Community Consent Comes First

“No community should be pressured, rushed, or sidelined. If residents do not want a project, their voices must carry real weight.”

2. Transparency Is a Right, Not a Favor

“All details must be disclosed upfront — including water usage, power demand, backup generation, environmental impact, & long-term operational plans. Communities should never learn the real consequences after construction begins.”

3. Fair Share, Not Blank-Check Incentives

“If a private business seeks tax abatements or public support, it must deliver clear, enforceable benefits to the community — not vague promises. Rural Texans should never subsidize billion-dollar corporations while absorbing the downside.”

Altman emphasized that he is **not opposed to economic development**, but firmly opposed to development that places communities at risk without accountability.

“Responsible growth means businesses carry their own weight, protect shared resources like water, & respect the people who live on the land,” Altman said. “Anything less isn't progress — it's exploitation.”

Looking Ahead

Altman called for continued public engagement, independent review of project impacts, & policies that ensure rural Texans are partners in development decisions — not afterthoughts.

“This is about fairness, transparency, & respect,” Altman concluded. “The people who live here should decide what their future looks like.”

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