



April 6, 2021

Village of Watkins Glen
Bord of Trustees
303 N. Franklin Street
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Dear Trustees,

It has come to our attention that a Resolution regarding our company may be considered at your meeting on April 6, 2021. This Resolution, as the attached point by point response demonstrates, is false. The people who work at Greenidge live in your Village, they shop and dine in your Village and they have friends and family who are regular participants in the broader Watkins Glen community.

For the reasons below, we ask that you reject this Resolution.

The utilization of a local moratorium, as this Resolution seems to recommend -- to stop a lawful operation that is fully permitted and fully approved by all relevant agencies -- would defy not only the law but would be directly contrary to the best interests of the Finger Lakes region, including the Village of Watkins Glen. This request comes from the very same individuals and groups that have proven to have zero credibility on the very issues they ask you to consider.

First, there is no legal basis for such an action by the Town of Torrey.

A moratorium would only be an appropriate tool when a community needs to consider whether to adopt changes to a local zoning ordinance to confront potential uses not covered by the current law. That is not the case here. The land upon which Greenidge sits was utilized as industrial property for decades -- even before the Town enacted its current zoning law.

Since the Greenidge facility has been permitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to operate 24/7, **there are no new impacts created by the facility's data processing center operation that are either not controlled by the current Town Zoning Code or that could be controlled by the Town Zoning Code, if modification were needed.**

Those asking you to recommend a ‘moratorium’ continue to ignore the fact that the very same aspect of the Greenidge operation of which they complain – electricity generation – is an activity expressly allowed by the various permits issued by the State after extensive analysis and multiple losing court challenges by the opponents. This is a reality they have been reminded of twice recently, on October 20, 2020 and January 26, 2021, when NYSDEC issued unambiguous statements to that effect.

Second, there is NO expansion of Greenidge’s power generation capacity being proposed by Greenidge. Zero.

Greenidge facility has valid operating permits from all the applicable state and local governmental authorities. Even if the Town of Torrey wanted to, it simply does not have the authority to supersede the powers of the State in the granting of permits of such things as water withdrawal and discharge. The Town Zoning Code has an existing noise standard, and that does, and will of course, govern the facility’s data processing center operations moving forward.

Beyond their failed legal argument, one must ask the obvious question, “why would anyone actually want to impose a so-called ‘moratorium’ on Greenidge’s successful operation?”

Greenidge is a unique success story. What was once an old coal plant with two employees responsible for coal traveling thru this region has been completely transformed due to tens of millions in private investment, and great support from our State, Town, County, and neighbors. Today, Greenidge is a clean, reliable source of power for thousands of homes and businesses in upstate New York, fully protects Seneca Lake with the best technology available and is home to a new data processing center that is already paying enormous dividends to our community at large.

Here are the facts:

*Last year alone, the data processing center they have asked you to oppose produced **nearly \$300,000 in new local tax revenues paid by our facility**, with hundreds of thousands more on the way.*

*Last year alone, the data processing center they have asked you to oppose underpinned many local companies in the Finger Lakes, **spending over \$6 million on family-owned businesses and major vendors alike, including those in Watkins Glen.***

*Today, that same project they want you to stop **employs dozens of great people and supports their families.***

*Today, that same project they want you to stop is **creating the high-tech jobs we need here in our region.** We pay great wages, benefits and provide a unique opportunity for career advancement.*

Moving forward, we will continue defending our record and the good people we employ. We would much prefer to hire more talented individuals from the Village and our region.

Greenidge has limitless potential for growth and shared prosperity. As such, we hope you will reject this “cookie-cutter” Resolution. We are a business that fully supports our community partners, operates in a manner that protects our environment and Seneca Lake, and operates in full compliance with all laws, permits and ordinances.

We thank the Village for its consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Dale Irwin

Dale Irwin
President & CEO
Greenidge Generation, LLC