



Written Testimony Sheet

Subject: DATA CENTER MORATORIUM	Date: 06/16/2020
	Time: 13:45

Use the blank area below for your written comments, or submit comments at:
minneapolismn.gov/publiccomment

Name: MEGHAN CONWAY

Comment: DATA CENTERS ARE AN UNETHICAL GRIFT, AND A MAJOR PROBLEM
FOR ALL COMMUNITIES, BUT ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE,
THEY ARE UNACCEPTABLE ON MANY LEVELS. THE LOCATION OF DATA CENTERS CREATES
A MASSIVE STRAIN ON WATER RESOURCES THAT PEOPLE NEED TO SURVIVE, AND
THE WATER CONSUMED BY DATA CENTERS ENDS UP POLLUTED - WE MUST VALUE
THE LIVES OF HUMANS OVER MACHINES, PERIOD. DATA CENTERS ARE A PURE FORM
OF EXTRACTIVE ECONOMICS THAT TAKE MASSIVE RESOURCES AND FUNDS AWAY FROM
REGULAR PEOPLE AND PASS ALONG BENEFITS TO A FEW PEOPLE WHO DO NOT LIVE WITH
ANY OF THE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES OF THIS TECH. THESE DATA CENTERS ARE
BUILT TO SUPPORT OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS LIKE THE ~~MINNAPOLIS~~ ^{POLITICALLY} ONES USED TO TARGET OUR
MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORS FOR REMOVAL FROM OUR COMMUNITIES. THE DATA CENTERS
PROVIDE NO GOOD JOBS - THIS CLAIM IS FALSE, AS ONCE CENTERS ARE BUILT,
THEY ARE LARGELY UNOCCUPIED AND NOT STAFFED LIKE NORMAL BUSINESSES.
THE IDEA THAT DATA CENTERS PROVIDE FINANCIAL OR OTHER BENEFITS TO THE

These comments will be included in the public record. Only include information that you are comfortable making public.

COMMUNITIES THEY ARE FOISTED UPON IS LAUGHABLE, AND SUPPORTING
DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT AS A MEANS OF FINANCIALLY REPLACING A
DWINDLING TAX BASE IS A FOOL'S ERRAND. DATA CENTERS ARE FLAT-OUT
REAL ESTATE (CONTINUED ↴)

SCAM DESIGNED TO EXTRACT MONEY AND RESOURCES FROM THE COMMUNITIES THEY BURDEN, NOT PUT MONEY BACK INTO THESE COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE NOT "INVESTMENTS" IN COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE YET ANOTHER FLASHY GRIFT MEANT TO SEPARATE REAL PEOPLE FROM RESOURCES AND MONEY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RAPACIOUS TECH COMPANIES. ~~AND~~ ACQUIESCING TO THE DEMANDS OF TECH COMPANIES IS A DERELICTION OF DUTY ON THE PART OF CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER ELECTED LEADERS WHO SERVE THE NEEDS OF CONSTITUENTS. AT SOME POINT IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE "AI" BUBBLE WILL POP, STRANDING GULLIBLE ^{LEADERSHIP} AND VICTIMIZED COMMUNITIES WITH USELESS DATA CENTERS, THE OWNERS OF WHICH WILL BE LONG-GONE WITH OUR COLLECTIVE MONEY. MINNEAPOLIS AND ITS CITIZENS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM ALLOWING THE MISTAKEN TRADEOFF TO OCCUR. WE WILL END UP WITH AN ALBATROSS AROUND OUR NECKS THAT WILL BE ENVIRONMENTALLY AND FINANCIALLY DESTRUCTIVE WHILE PROVIDING NOTHING IN RETURN. DO NOT FALL FOR THE SCAM! NO DATA CENTERS IN MINNEAPOLIS! POPULAR INFORMATION JUST PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY REBECCA CROSBY, TITLED "HOW DATA CENTERS ARE BLOWING A HOLE IN STATE BUDGETS" ON JUNE 10, 2020. IN HER ARTICLE, CROSBY SHOWS THAT DATA CENTERS ADD NET ZERO PERMANENT JOBS AND BECAUSE OF TAX INCENTIVES, ~~IT~~ STATES THAT ~~ALLO~~ DATA CENTERS ARE LOSING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAX REVENUE, WHICH IS THE SUPPOSED BENEFIT MINNEAPOLIS CLAIMS TO BE DESPERATELY CHASING. DATA CENTERS ARE FINANCIALLY SELF-DEFEATING! OHIO HAS RESCINDED SUCH TAX ~~EXEMPTIONS~~ ALREADY; VIRGINIA STATE LOST 1.6 BILLION DOLLARS IN 2025 ALONE; WISCONSIN'S DATA CENTERS ~~WILL~~ COST THE STATE OVER 2 BILLION DOLLARS IN SALES TAX REVENUE INCLUDING 1.5 BILLION ~~IN~~ IN LOST FUNDS DURING CONSTRUCTION ALONE, WITH SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL LOSSES PROJECTED AT AROUND 370 MILLION DOLLARS! THIS IS MADNESS. TEXAS LOST OVER ~~A~~ BILLION ~~IN~~ DOLLARS IN 2025 DUE TO TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DATA CENTERS. WHETHER FINANCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR HEALTH ~~AND~~ EFFECTS OF DATA CENTERS ARE CONSIDERED, IT'S HARMS ALL THE WAY DOWN FOR UNFORTUNATE HOST COMMUNITIES. MORATORIUM NOW.



Written Testimony Sheet

Subject: <u>Data Center Moratorium</u>	Date: <u>6/16/26</u>
	Time: <u>2:32 pm</u>

Use the blank area below for your written comments, or submit comments at:
minneapolismn.gov/publiccomment

Name: Jahan Hayes

Comment: I am a North Minneapolis resident and homeowner
and I am also a Software engineer by trade. I have
witnessed first hand the inconsistent and frankly unstable
economy around the use of AI technologies day in and out
over the last several years. Just yesterday ~~the~~ Company leadership
enacted serious ~~the~~ restrictions on our use of AI tools
due to rising costs. The perceived endless growth of AI value
in the market is not sustainable. AI use, and by extension,
the infrastructure (Data Centers) needed to run them will
fade. But the ecological and financial damage caused by them
will affect ~~our~~ our children and grandchildren. We need to extend
the moratorium as long as is necessary to protect ~~our~~ our futures.

These comments will be included in the public record. Only include information that you are comfortable making public.



Written Testimony Sheet

Subject: <u>Data Centers</u>	Date: <u>6/16/26</u>
	Time: <u>1:30</u>

Use the blank area below for your written comments, or submit comments at:
minneapolismn.gov/publiccomment

Name: Orin Rubin

Comment: I'm submitting as an unaffiliated trades worker. I understand that many trades representatives are pushing for less regulation on Data Centers. I've had many conversations with co-workers & peers from my & other trades. I have found exactly zero people who would want a Data Center in their neighborhood & only a minority of people who would be willing to compromise someone else's neighborhood. Reports from other areas where Data Centers have already been built are horrific. We've seen the news & the social media posts & I'm sure that y'all have too. From impacts on water, land use, our electrical grid, & even intense noise pollution, these facilities are unconscionable. If we build Data Centers locally there need to be strict regulations - paid for by the people profiting - or an overall ban.

These comments will be included in the public record. Only include information that you are comfortable making public.

Urban Infill Data Centers in Minneapolis

What the City Council Should Know

What is an urban infill data center?

- An urban infill data center repurposes underutilized commercial or industrial property in an urban area for data processing infrastructure — rather than building a large new campus on the urban fringe.
- Unlike large AI training campuses built in remote locations, smaller urban infill facilities typically offer "edge" computing services that improve application response times for local businesses and residents.
- Because they are designed to operate within existing infrastructure constraints, urban infill data centers require fewer grid upgrades than new large campuses — and can absorb capacity in areas where commercial usage has declined.

Why is this good for Minneapolis?

- Minneapolis has seen a sharp decline in demand for urban office space, negatively affecting property values and the public revenues the city depends on for critical programs and services.

A single 40-megawatt data center occupying 2–3 floors of a vacant office building can generate nearly **\$5 million** annually in local taxes and fees:
City \$2.5M • County \$1.2M • School District \$770K • Park Board \$280K

- New urban infill data centers also create hundreds of union construction jobs, improve the quality of local digital services, support business development, and generate millions in economic activity, state taxes, and utility revenues.

Why is data center development in Minneapolis good for the climate?

- Modern data processing is energy-intensive — which is precisely why location matters. Minnesota's electric grid is among the cleanest in the country, with a legislative mandate to reach 100% carbon-free energy by 2040.

Locating a 40 MW data center in Minneapolis instead of North Dakota reduces greenhouse gas emissions by **70% today** — and by **90% by 2032**.
That's equivalent to taking **30,000–40,000 cars off the road**.

The answer is responsible development, not a moratorium.

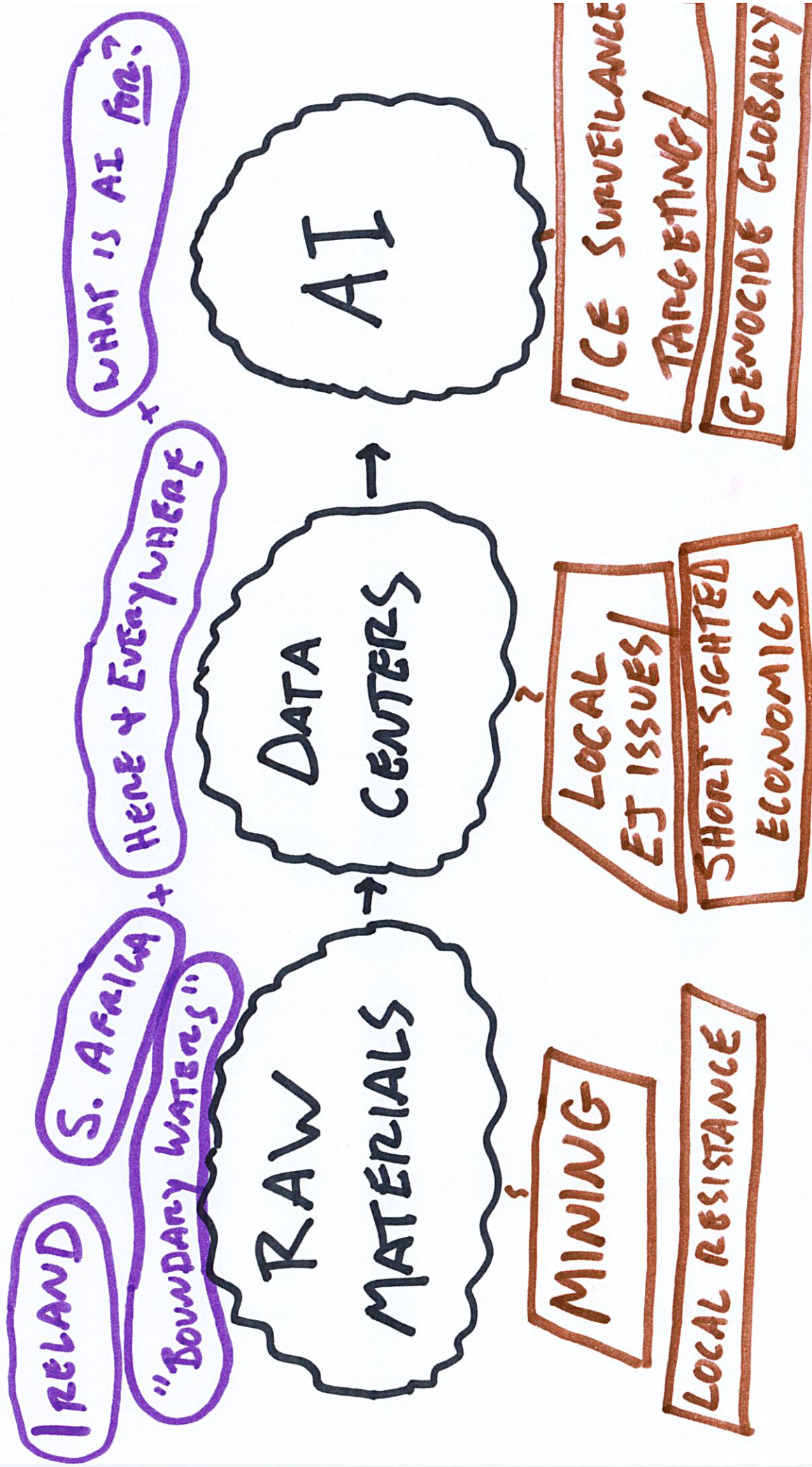
LiUNA! MINNESOTA &
NORTH DAKOTA
Feel the Power

MINNESOTA'S INFRASTRUCTURE UNION

Submitted by:
ERICK BOSTEAD
WARD Z
6/16/26

TECH STACK

BEWARE OF GREEN-
WASHING AS WELL!!



From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Douglas Pearson
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 7:10:46 PM



Public Comment: Douglas Pearson

Date: 06/16/26, 7:08 PM

2026-00446

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this comment to support the 6 month moratorium to pause data center development in Minneapolis (i.e. as it is currently written this excludes the neighborhood I live in which is downtown Minneapolis).

While I would like to have the pause implemented in downtown Minneapolis due to many of the environmental concerns, the speculative nature of AI, the long term economic impact when it comes to jobs, the concern for water use and electricity and the cost of that, I understand the the moratorium as it is written now was a compromise that took effort to write. From my understanding this was written as a reaction to meeting with business people who wanted a say in the manner.

Ideally, I believe this carve out for business is enough to get investors interested to develop data centers downtown and since other cities in Minnesota are weighing moratoriums as well, it is possible that it could funnel big business into downtown Minneapolis more knowing there could be less regulation for them to set up shop.

For those that oppose the 6 month moratorium, I think this is a good reason to support with the downtown Minneapolis exceptions as a competitive advantage to the surrounding areas. Union jobs certainly can be created with downtown Minneapolis data center development. To pause for 6 months until the rest of Minneapolis is open for development I don't view as a long period of time.

If I understand some of those goals, I think a competitive advantage where investors are interested in putting data centers in the downtown neighborhood

would meet those goals as well as align at least partially with my goals as a resident who is skeptical of the long term benefits.

This is why I am supporting the council to vote for yes on the moratorium.

Thanks,
Doug

Ward: Ward 7

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: (2 entries)
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 6:02:44 PM



Public Comment: (2 entries)

Public Comment: Alejandro E Richardson

Date: 06/16/26, 6:00 PM

Public Comment on Data Center Moritorium

To whom it may concern, I, Alejandro E Richardson, was in attendance during the Business, Housing, and Zoning committee public hearing on on June the 16th of 2026 between approximately 1:30pm and 4:00pm cst. I am submitting for the record that nothing that I said, did, or wrote during the aforementioned hearing was a representation of any individual or organization other than myself. I was not speaking on behalf of the UBC (Carpenters Union) the Building Trades of Minneapolis, or Carpenters Local 68. Any reference to myself as a union carpenter was simply to answer the question of my profession, not to give perception or indication that I was speaking on behalf of The Carpenters Union. Any recording, written or otherwise, of my affiliation with Carpenters Interior Systems Local 68, was simply a misunderstanding of a form, and not in any way meant to indicate that I was speaking on behalf of or representing in any way shape or form the opinions of, or said Local.

I sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding of my actions or words, written or spoken, and humbly request that the Committee review this comment and consider it as an offical addition to any in person comment or written word that is on record.

Thank you Council Members and Committee Chair Osman for your consideration and hard work,

Alejandro E Richardson

Ward: Ward 9

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

-

Public Comment: Alejandro E Richardson

Date: 06/16/26, 6:00 PM

Public Comment on Data Center Moritorium

To whom it may concern, I, Alejandro E Richardson, was in attendance during the Business, Housing, and Zoning committee public hearing on on June the 16th of 2026 between approximately 1:30pm and 4:00pm cst. I am submitting for the record that nothing that I said, did, or wrote during the aforementioned hearing was a representation of any individual or organization other than myself. I was not speaking on behalf of the UBC (Carpenters Union) the Building Trades of Minneapolis, or Carpenters Local 68. Any reference to myself as a union carpenter was simply to answer the question of my profession, not to give perception or indication that I was speaking on behalf of The Carpenters Union. Any recording, written or otherwise, of my affiliation with Carpenters Interior Systems Local 68, was simply a misunderstanding of a form, and not in any way meant to indicate that I was speaking on behalf of or representing in any way shape or form the opinions of, or said Local.

I sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding of my actions or words, written or spoken, and humbly request that the Committee review this comment and consider it as an offical addition to any in person comment or written word that is on record.

Thank you Council Members and Committee Chair Osman for your consideration and hard work,

Alejandro E Richardson

Ward: Ward 9

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Casimira Zartuche Buzo
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 5:26:34 PM



Public Comment: Casimira Zartuche Buzo

Date: 06/16/26, 5:24 PM

2026-00446

I am urging the committee to vote yes on a Datacenter Moretorium!

As a constituent of Elizabeth Shaffer, I strongly believe it is important that Shaffer does not preemptively assume authority to regulate datacenters for financial gain without having townhall meetings with her constituents. Especially when she has already shown a proclivity of supporting the police and using the mental health crisis as a weapon to call for more police funding instead of addressing the mental health crisis or affordability crisis with peer-reviewed measures. This is clearly flawed judgement and untrustworthy and we need more accountability!

Perhaps she can do a scorecard like CM Whiting to show how truly transparent or not her intentions are, if they are that

Ward: Ward 7

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Alexandra Kedzierski
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 4:33:43 PM



Public Comment: Alexandra Kedzierski

Date: 06/16/26, 4:31 PM

2026-0446

Pass data center moratorium. Data centers have been documented to create huge amounts of noise pollutions, light pollution, water pollution, and massive amounts of energy consumption. Every single member who votes no to a moratorium will be voted out. This is such a bipartisan issue across the entire country. NO DATA CENTERS IN OUR CITY!

Ward: Ward 1

I don't know, share with all City Council

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Moratorium on data center uses (2026-00446)

Maryza Hanson Statement:

I am in favor of the moratorium. There are many questions left unanswered regarding the data center regarding community impact and environmental stressors. It's really important to me as a member of this community that we continue to protect, uplift, and support each and every person belonging to every neighborhood in Minneapolis and beyond. Should a data center want to be a part of the community, I would expect and suggest that whatever piece of land or property they acquire, should come ready and be transparent with plans and systems ready to be put into action as a fundamental part of their business that aims to give back and grow the community it is choosing to join. The plan should include but not be limited to topics such as providing community resources, improving infrastructure, advancing education and learning opportunities that could lead to pathways for jobs for the people of Minneapolis. And have a commitment to engaging the community and constituents to be involved in the process of the potential changes and improvements they'd like to make. I also expect that there be a plan set in place that speaks to how this datacenter will strive set an example of how future data centers will help cities like Minneapolis achieve goals like "zero carbon footprint by 2030". This means that they will not be adding to the carbon burden, but rather being a leader and an example of how data centers in the future can do its part in reducing harm to our environment, not using the old ways of manufacturers and corporations of the past in adding to the environmental harm.

From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Maryza Alexandra Hanson
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 2:19:12 PM



Public Comment: Maryza Alexandra Hanson

Date: 06/16/26, 2:17 PM

Moratorium on data center uses (2026-00446)

I am in favor of the moratorium. There are many questions left unanswered regarding the data center regarding community impact and environmental stressors. It's really important to me as a member of this community that we continue to protect, uplift, and support each and every person belonging to every neighborhood in Minneapolis and beyond. Should a data center want to be a part of the community, I would expect and suggest that whatever piece of land or property they acquire, should come ready and be transparent with plans and systems ready to be put into action as a fundamental part of their business that aims to give back and grow the community it is choosing to join. The plan should include but not be limited to topics such as providing community resources, improving infrastructure, advancing education and learning opportunities that could lead to pathways for jobs for the people of Minneapolis. And have a commitment to engaging the community and constituents to be involved in the process of the potential changes and improvements they'd like to make. I also expect that there be a plan set in place that speaks to how this datacenter will strive set an example of how future data centers will help cities like Minneapolis achieve goals like "zero carbon footprint by 2030". This means that they will not be adding to the carbon burden, but rather being a leader and an example of how data centers in the future can do its part in reducing harm to our environment, not using the old ways of manufacturers and corporations of the past in adding to the environmental harm.

Ward: Ward 10

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Josh Spitzer-Resnick](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Cc: [Stevenson, Soren D](#); [Ward 2](#); [Chowdhury, Aurin](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting a permanent data center moratorium + setting a standard for municipalities to protect our environment and livelihoods
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 1:16:58 PM

You don't often get email from joshspitzerresnick@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there. I'm a graduate of the University of Minnesota where I studied computer science and machine learning well before ChatGPT. I live in Lyndale represented by Soren Stevenson and previously lived in Robin Wonsley's district since I moved to Minneapolis in 2017. I was also recently laid off from 3M Healthcare (now Solventum) in Oct / Nov 2025, along with many other roles being outsourced to India and Poland in order to spend more on AI coding and development tools, which in turn replaces more jobs and sends the equivalent of those salaries to Amazon, Microsoft, Google, OpenAI, and Anthropic.

There really are no benefits to allowing data centers into our communities - it is an extremely extractive, expensive process that uses our resources, pollutes our water and air, and sends those profits directly back to a tiny group of oligarchs far away from us at Amazon, Microsoft, and Google.

Preventing data centers from extracting our resources and sending our livelihoods and wealth to a few tech CEOs is the same fight as protecting our community's ability to live with dignified jobs. As a graduate of the U, for the past three years I've also mentored current students in the College of Science & Engineering, who are having increasingly difficult times finding internships or entry level positions, and ask me if they are too late to enter this field that was once a promise of economic mobility. Almost every single AI startup right now is focused on automating some type of existing job to sell a subscription for slightly less than a salary, with the same narrative of supporting a shortage of workers in a field until workers realize they have no future in a field where their conditions get worse and career opportunities dwindle. Once companies lay off their workers, subscription costs increase. Waymo is automating taxi drivers. 3M Healthcare / Solventum is automating medical scribes and medical coders. At the Mayo Clinic AI Research Summit two weeks ago, the possibility of automating clinical decision making became very real. Palantir is enabling autonomous surveillance, war, and genocide. Other companies are automating trades like construction, manufacturing, logistics, and agriculture. This loss of livelihoods at a scale that is new in our generation is directly enabled by the extractiveness of every new data center and every new power plant that must go up to support it.

Since the end of 2025, workers in the tech industry are increasingly waking up to the reality that we have no labor protections which prevent companies from laying off 30,000 people in a single breath. Our unemployment system was built to support people navigating job loss for less than half a year, not the complete erasure of job types and industries. This pattern is reverberating across tech and many other industries. My partner is a writer and poet, and twice in the last year the company she works for has laid off half of her team and slashed her salary while demanding she use ChatGPT to produce 10x the amount of work she did previously.

Some companies are brave enough to let everyone know how many people they're laying off at once in order to invest in AI infrastructure (read: these data centers), while others such as Solventum have learned that if they lay off smaller batches of people throughout the year, that

helps them avoid triggering WARN Act reporting requirements and thus avoid negative press. Currently, companies see that it is cheaper and more efficient to take away our livelihoods while polluting the environment, and that there are absolutely no restrictions to prevent them from doing so or that make them recalculate their financial incentive for doing so.

~

In addition to a permanent data center moratorium, I ask that the city council be proactive to propose aggressive protections for our environment, jobs, and the health of our people, and work with other municipalities to model a human-first standard to protect communities across the US. Some ideas:

- > Designate extractive data centers as a new class of zoning that comes with high environmental reporting restrictions, operating taxes, utility taxes, and local community burden taxes.
- > Institute increased mandated warning timelines, taxes, and fines for companies that lay off workers while investing in AI. Prohibit all tax or other funding incentives for AI infrastructure.
- > Designate funds raised from AI displacement of workers and environmental burden of communities towards supporting unemployment, healthcare access, and a civilian wealth fund.
- > Work with other municipal governments nationally, local governments across Minnesota, and indigenous communities (such as Mukwa <https://www.mukwamiikana.org/nodatacenters>) to co-create and adopt frameworks and regulations that protect our land and people, while creating real costs for corporations who are financially incentivized to take advantage of cheap utility costs to displace workers at massive scales while ruining our environment.

Thank you,

Josh Spitzer-Resnick

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Daniel Dockery
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 3:38:35 PM



Public Comment: Daniel Dockery

Date: 06/16/26, 3:36 PM

Moratorium on data center uses (2026-0446)

Data centers use a lot of water and electricity, competing with all other consumers and driving up prices, especially for electricity. In addition, after the initial construction, they maintain only a minimal staff of generally low-level employees to maintain the systems. In many places where larger datacenters have been built, it was found that they contributed very little to the tax base - and in some cases, even ended up costing the city more than they paid in.

In addition to that, large data centers are often very noisy - and if there is a power outage, they usually fail over to gas-powered generators which dump pollutants into the air.

Until it can be demonstrated that large datacenters are contributing more than noise, pollution, and higher utility costs to their host communities, I am very much in favor of Minneapolis implementing a moratorium on their construction.

Ward: Ward 1

I don't know, share with all City Council

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 2:22:06 PM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/16/26, 2:19 PM

2026-00446

Everything I have heard about data centers had been negative. It increases costs for local people. Data Centers can increase air and water pollution which has a direct impact on the people living closest to it as well as residual impact on surrounding areas. I don't want a data center in Minnesota because it will take up precious land that we use for farming or housing.

We don't need more data centers, we need clean water, air and farm land.

Ward:

I don't know, share with all City Council

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 12:29:27 PM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/16/26, 12:27 PM

2026-00446 Moratorium on databases Center uses

Data centers are extremely consumptive of natural resources - especially water. Water is a public resource. Data Centers are private enterprises, and the AI boom has made a small number of executives and stockholders extremely rich. What is the benefit to the communities that these resources belong to? Nothing.

Further development of data centers in our city needs to be paused until agreements are made that enable communities to make decisions about data centers, and at minimum companies have to be stopped from externalizing the costs of their operations.

Ward: Ward 4

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Hana
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 12:03:01 PM



Public Comment: Hana

Date: 06/16/26, 12:00 PM

2026-00446

I'm a resident of Ward 7 writing in support of the data center moratorium.

I've worked in the tech industry for almost a decade, building for different types of artificial intelligence. In recent years, as the industry has shifted its focus to generative AI, I've developed a deep understanding of what LLMs are, how they work, and what they demand of physical infrastructure.

Several council members have now framed the opposition to unregulated data center development as misinformation, baseless fears, and a failure to understand facts, but my concerns about data center growth are not rooted in misunderstanding.

I hear the arguments for revenue growth. I hear the arguments for temporary construction jobs. But I want my neighborhood to grow in ways that benefit my community, not wealthy investors. I'm not willing to risk our water, air quality, and noise levels to rush into projects we haven't researched yet in the age of generative AI.

I also share Council Member Chavez's concerns about surveillance. Expanding data center capacity feeds AI-driven tools that are used by corporations and federal agencies like ICE to monitor, profile, deport, and harm our neighbors.

When I contacted Council Member Shaffer to ask that she consider supporting the moratorium, the reply I received spent seven paragraphs explaining what data centers are. The two sources cited were a Bloomberg.com feature about Finnish infrastructure and a MinnPost newsletter column, not peer-reviewed research.

Right now, Minneapolis only regulates by square footage, not megawatts. This is an indicator that we are unprepared to safely support the growth being demanded by generative AI.

I reject the notion that supporting this data center moratorium means being anti-growth or anti-facts.

We don't have the tools yet, and now is the time to define them.

Ward: Ward 7

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Serena Munoz Kubes
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 11:44:42 AM



Public Comment: Serena Munoz Kubes

Date: 06/16/26, 11:42 AM

I've lived in Minnesota my whole life Minnesota has always been there for their people. Say no to data centers. We don't need them. We don't want them. It is not good for the environment. You people know it's not good for the environment. Y'all better not pass that data center!!!!

Ward: Ward 7

I don't know, share with all City Council

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Henos Yonas
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:35:07 PM



Public Comment: Henos Yonas

Date: 06/15/26, 10:32 PM

2026-00446

Hello, I am a constituent. I do not like the idea of my city housing job-stealing machines that steal water and electricity from my communities. Minneapolis has seen enough targeted harm towards marginalized communities and the environments those communities inhabit to know exactly what will happen if this bill doesn't pass: more health detriments, more inequity, and more injustice. I'm not comfortable with large corporations deciding what's best for me when that means being neighbors with a hallucinating plagiarism machine. I'm not comfortable with large corporations deciding what's best for me PERIOD. Please implement more checks on these greedy tech CEOs, and do whatever you can to prevent further harm from enveloping our recovering city. Please pass this bill.

Ward: Ward 4

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Dan McConnell](#)
To: [Council Members](#); [Council Comment](#)
Cc: [Bernie Burnham](#); [Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou](#); [Dan McConnell](#); [Frey, Jacob](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Moratorium on data center uses (2026-00446)
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 9:09:30 AM
Attachments: [Resolution 7 We Want Good Jobs Today and Tomorrow\[16\].pdf](#)
[2026.06.16 Joint Data Center Moratorium.pdf](#)

Good morning Council Members,

Please see the attached joint letter from the MN AFL-CIO, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, and the Building Trades regarding today's vote on placing a moratorium on new Data Centers in the city. While we appreciate the exemptions that have been incorporated, we remain opposed to a moratorium.

Also attached for your review is a copy of the recently adopted Resolution 7 from the AFL-CIO convention which was held here in Minneapolis last week.

Finally, below is a link to the editorial I submitted to the Star Tribune on this issue.

<https://www.startribune.com/mn-land-use-development-ai-water-environment-concerns/601857379>

Thanks,

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[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

RESOLUTION 7: WE WANT GOOD JOBS TODAY AND TOMORROW.

The economy should work for people, not the other way around. An economy that works for people is one that, at a minimum, produces good jobs, not precarious work. A good job is one in which you can not only live, but thrive. We should not need to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Nor should we allow corporations to subvert our rights through gig work or misclassification. We should all have a good job with rights, wages that support a family, health care, retirement and other benefits, safe working conditions and a voice on the job. By exercising our collective power at the bargaining table, in policymaking and in the marketplace, we can shape today and tomorrow's economy to produce good jobs and improve everyone's quality of life.

It is union power that has secured good jobs that built a stable middle class. We must continue to secure good jobs in manufacturing, services, construction and all industries to assure artificial intelligence doesn't degrade our job quality, and be poised to meet the challenges of preserving and building good jobs in the energy sector. We have built the biggest, most effective worker training system in the world, which is designed to promote good jobs. We must not only maintain but expand registered union apprenticeships, as they are critical to securing millions of family-supporting jobs, and ensuring the quality and efficient completion of critical infrastructure projects that make an economy run.

We continue to support for the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, North America's Building Trades Unions, state federations of labor's workforce development offices and staff, and all labor-affiliated workforce development organizations whose work is to support affiliates and federated bodies on workforce development programs and policy and oppose any effort to cut federal funding or standards for workforce development programs.

All public investments in those projects, tied with labor standards that build with union labor a 21st century infrastructure for transportation, communication, energy and more, must be robust and urgently deployed.

A Worker-Centered Industrial Policy

Decades of misguided trade and economic policy gutted communities and hollowed out our industrial base, as more than 90,000 factories shuttered and 5 million manufacturing workers lost their livelihoods. We call for a worker-centered industrial policy that supports, and creates, good, union jobs, reinvigorates communities across our nation and restores the resiliency of the critical supply chains on which we all rely. To support working families, this moment demands action on four key pillars: trade, investment, procurement and workers' rights.

Pillar 1: Trade Policy That Puts Workers First

The labor movement has been leading the fight for a trade policy that puts families and communities first. We must not let the recent chaos lead us back to the old corporate-driven trade model that destroyed millions of good, family-sustaining union jobs and hollowed out countless communities in our country. We recommit to the fight for a durable and strategic pro-worker agenda that prioritizes good jobs at home while lifting standards abroad.

We must renegotiate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to address the offshoring of good, union jobs and the weaponization of this threat to undermine workers' ability to form a union and collectively bargain. The agreement must also strengthen rules of origin, including for sectors like aerospace and appliances, improve labor and environmental standards in Mexico, and prevent China from using Mexico as a back door to circumvent our laws.

We support strong and expanded trade enforcement tools like the strategic application of tariffs to level the playing field for American workers. This means defending and strengthening our anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws, mechanisms to review outbound investment that hurts our workers and security, and protecting strategic, effective trade tools like Section 301 and Section 232 that have played a critical role in supporting good jobs.

All revenue derived from tariffs should be put toward programs that directly benefit working people including: investing in union-friendly domestic manufacturing and infrastructure projects; union-led workforce development, registered apprenticeship, apprenticeship utilization, pre-apprenticeship and retraining programs; support for workers, communities and union-friendly industries adversely affected by trade disruptions; and strengthening of social safety nets such as trade adjustment assistance, unemployment insurance, and healthcare access. The allocation of tariff revenues should be monitored to ensure transparency.

We support regular reviews in trade agreements to ensure Congress and workers can influence these agreements that have such a dramatic impact on our lives. These reviews must be conducted with stakeholder engagement, not in shady backrooms where workers' interests can be ignored or sold out, to raise and enforce labor standards and boost domestic employment.

We must reauthorize and strengthen Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) to support workers laid off through no fault of their own and the communities where they live. TAA has a long track record of success, providing resources and training opportunities to help workers get back on their feet, but it has been sabotaged by cruel, cynical politics, depriving nearly 200,000 workers and counting of a desperately needed lifeline.

We must sync our tax code with our trade policy, putting an end to provisions that not only fail to deter offshoring, but actively incentivize it.

We must fully fund foreign assistance programs to raise labor standards in global supply chains to improve the lives of workers in the countries with which we trade and level the playing field for our workers, who are all too often pitted against exploited workforces in low standard countries.

We must protect the economic security of the more than 5 million people who work in the motion picture, television and music industries, and other parts of the creative sector. Many of these workers earn collectively bargained pay and contributions to their health insurance and pension plans from the sales and licensing of the copyrighted works they help create. We must aggressively address the stolen or unlicensed use of copyrighted content, including the practice of companies training their artificial intelligence models on copyrighted material without consent or compensation.

Pillar 2: Investing in Our Workers and Communities

Our trade policy must be complemented by significant, strategic and durable investment programs. These investments must include resources to drive demand for key industries, support for the modernization or expansion of existing facilities as well as new factories, and resources for worker-led training programs to attract, and retain, workers in good, union jobs.

We will fight to restore investments in critical energy projects and domestic supply chains. This funding helped spur historic investments in manufacturing construction and laid the groundwork for hundreds of thousands of new jobs. We must also invest in other key industries to expand employment and capacity, including our nation's shipbuilding, auto, aerospace, critical minerals mining and processing, and upstream materials manufacturing industries. These investments will foster innovation, strengthen supply chains, expand domestic energy production and grow the middle class. This funding for capacity must be coupled with policies to drive demand signals that unlock private investment to maximize the impact of public dollars.

We must also invest in our workers to ensure that the existing workforce is prepared to adapt to changes in production, and to recruit and retain the workers needed as we expand domestic supply chains.

Pillar 3: Leveraging the Government's Purchasing Power to Support Working Families

Domestic content policies align our procurement with our values by ensuring American workers have the first shot at supplying goods and services purchased with taxpayer dollars. By reinvesting our taxpayer dollars at home, we're investing in family- and community-sustaining

jobs across this country at factories that are often far less polluting, and far safer for workers, than competitors overseas.

We must preserve Buy America policies that have for years supported workers supplying materials and products for federally assisted infrastructure projects, and continue our efforts to close administratively created loopholes that undermine these pro-worker preferences.

We must work to increase content requirements and close loopholes that undermine Buy America preferences for direct procurement by the federal government to support workers in the aerospace, defense, automotive, energy and other sectors. Additionally, simply buying “American” is not enough if we want our tax dollars to support good jobs. Procurement policy should systematically favor union-made products, prioritizing workplaces with collective bargaining agreements, using the scale of federal spending to promote union organizing.

Further, our commercial and public shipbuilding industries that conduct production and sustainment work for our armed services continue to suffer from inconsistent demand, mixed policy signals and loopholes that undermine their ability to invest and plan for the future and retain workers. We oppose any efforts to shift work, from the production of vessels to sustainment activities to repair and maintain key vessels, to overseas yards.

The Jones Act, and all related cabotage and cargo preference laws, must be protected, and loopholes should be closed to maximize their effectiveness. These laws support hundreds of thousands of good jobs in the maritime and shipbuilding industries, as well as in upstream supply chains, and contribute billions of dollars to our economy. In addition, the Jones Act provides for a pool of well-trained, reliable U.S. citizen mariners available to sail aboard U.S.-flag military support vessels in times of crisis. The AFL-CIO enthusiastically commits to continue its critical fight for the good-paying jobs created by the Jones Act.

The Export-Import Bank (EXIM Bank) supports tens of thousands of good jobs across our nation in industries like aerospace and energy production; it deserves to be fully funded to carry out its mission, allowed to expand its portfolio of projects, and must continue to include domestic content requirements that create additional U.S. jobs and drive economic growth. Further, these provisions should extend to all U.S. support of overseas purchases and development, including the Development Finance Corporation.

Other provisions supporting domestic procurement and production must be defended and strengthened as well, including the Specialty Metals Clause, the Berry and Kissell Amendments, and Title III of the Defense Production Act.

Pillar 4: Pairing Industrial Policy with the Right to Collectively Bargain

Rebuilding our domestic industrial base after decades of corporate-centered trade, tax and disinvestment policies will only revitalize communities and lead to a meaningfully better life for working families if workers are able to join together to form a union free from interference and leverage the power of collective bargaining. We should not fool ourselves that reindustrialization alone is the answer to the economic difficulties facing communities damaged by the unfair trade policies of the past. Strong unions are what gave production workers access to the American Dream, by lifting wage and benefit standards across entire industries and regions.

We must strengthen workers' freedom to organize and collectively bargain via labor law reforms, including through the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. When our government spends taxpayer dollars to foster industrial activity, these investments must come with requirements that recipients recognize workers' right to form a union and collectively bargain. We must leverage procurement rules to ensure that not only are taxpayers dollars supporting domestic manufacturing, they are prioritizing producers where workers have a voice at the table through their union.

Taxpayer dollars should not promote low-road labor practices. We urge all federal, state, and local governments to require that any public funds directly or indirectly used for expanding U.S. manufacturing, maintenance, and operations include: mandatory participation in Union Registered Apprenticeship programs for all manufacturers, contractors and subcontractors; enforcement of wage and benefit standards no less than prevailing wages and benefits established under applicable collective bargaining agreements; and apprenticeship utilization requirements that ensure a minimum percentage of total labor hours are performed by apprentices enrolled in Union Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Artificial Intelligence

We stand at a crossroads that will define the future of work and the lives of working people. Big Tech billionaires are pushing a relentless agenda to ensure that artificial intelligence (AI) and other rapidly advancing technologies infiltrate every corner of our economy, public services and society. They are promoting false, utopian visions of an AI-improved society, based on technologies that are often fundamentally flawed. At the same time, they are spending a fortune in politics to stop any guardrails or accountability that would stand in the way of their dangerous profiteering.

But working people are not so easily fooled. They know that, while AI products may create potential benefits, without proper oversight and strong guardrails they present far greater dangers. Indeed, many workers are living with these dangers on a daily basis. Working families are being crushed by an affordability crisis, made worse when predatory AI systems use their data to raise prices discriminately because they live in the wrong zip code. Unregulated AI is

already threatening jobs, degrading job quality, endangering workers' safety and health, undermining labor and civil rights, and dehumanizing and abusing workers through Draconian surveillance and automated management. Beyond the workplace, unregulated AI presents a clear and present danger to our safety, our privacy and the very fabric of our democracy.

Working people don't want this for their future and their children's future. They understand that the most important things about our jobs—and our society—are human, and that this human element cannot and should not be replaced by unproven, faceless AI systems.

The AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions stand resolved to stop Big Tech billionaires from recklessly unleashing untested and potentially dangerous technologies without consideration or constraint. We stand with workers in demanding a different vision of the future—where working people are in the driver's seat deciding how and whether AI and other advanced technologies are developed and deployed, and ensuring that innovation delivers societal benefits, creates opportunity for everyone and does not lead to more inequality, discrimination or economic disruption.

That's why we have built the first-of-its-kind Workers First AI agenda grounded in principles that bind the interests of all people, no matter what they do, where they live, who they voted for or how they feel about new technology. These principles call for industry and government leaders to:

1. Strengthen **labor rights** and broaden opportunities for **collective bargaining**.
2. Advance **guardrails** against harmful uses of AI at work.
3. Support and promote **copyright and intellectual property** protections.
4. Develop a worker-centered **workforce development and training** system.
5. Institutionalize “**worker voice**” within AI research and development.
6. Require **transparency and accountability** in AI applications.
7. Model best practices for AI use with **government procurement**.
8. Protect workers' **civil rights** and uphold **democratic integrity**.

Beyond these principles, the AFL-CIO will meet this moment with action. We will launch and mobilize a broad campaign to bring the Workers First AI Agenda to life, partnering with elected officials, civil society, philanthropy and businesses that are willing to choose a different path forward. We will expand our nationwide policy training program to ensure that unions and AFL-CIO state and local bodies are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to advance this campaign and make meaningful change in every sector of the economy and every community across the nation.

This campaign will be built on a foundation of three core objectives:

- **Guardrails** to protect the safety and well-being of all working families. We need worker-centered legislation in every state to protect people from harms that AI and technology can present on and off the job, from discrimination to invasions of privacy to threats to data security to harms to worker health and safety. In the public sector, we must also prevent government leaders at all levels from testing and deploying AI use in government without strong and enforceable guardrails that protect both the people who deliver public services and the public they serve, and ensure that technology neither makes rights-determining decisions nor is not used as an excuse to eliminate positions.
- **Guarantees** for working families weathering economic transitions. We must use all available tools—collective action, bargaining, legislation (**e.g., the NO FAKES Act with its protections against deepfakes**) and executive action—to prevent job loss and degradation. Government, employers and Big Tech must share in the responsibility to strengthen existing support programs and create a stronger, comprehensive social safety net that will protect working people during this time of massive economic transition, and we must avoid the kinds of failures and harms inflicted on working families and their communities by the economic disruptions caused by American trade policies.
- **Growth** and opportunity for future generations. We need workers at the table in all stages of the innovation process to ensure that new technologies are developed in ways that make workers' jobs safer and better. We demand that employers bargain over the development and deployment of AI and technology in the workplace—not just in the private sector, but in the public sector as well. We demand economic policies that allow workers to share in the economic gains that technology brings. And we must prepare the next generation for the economy of the future, while expanding the labor movement's leadership as the largest private sector job training provider to ensure that all workers have access to the high-quality training, wraparound supports and career pathways they need to succeed.

The best way for workers to navigate this new terrain is through unions. Our movement has the power to stop Big Tech billionaires from weaponizing AI against workers and to make sure the AI revolution improves working people's lives and livelihoods. We are ready to lead the fight to protect the dignity and humanity of work.

Our message to elected leaders is clear and unequivocal: You can either stand with Big Tech's drive to maximize profits at all cost, or you can stand with working people in supporting responsible and careful technological change. But you can't do both.

Good Union Jobs—Powering the Economy, Affordable Electricity and Responding to the Impacts of Climate Change

The world is entering a new Age of Electricity, where national prosperity, jobs and competitiveness depend on a bigger, cleaner and more resilient power sector as more sectors of the economy go electric. In the United States, the electricity sector, its supply chains, and U.S. electricity demand are growing for the first time in decades. It is a tremendous opportunity to organize, grow our movement and invest for the long term in a diversified, made-in-America clean energy economy that keeps the United States globally competitive.

To meet this moment, we must ensure that lawmakers, policymakers and other stakeholders recognize labor's critical role in achieving success. The labor movement must tackle these challenges head on. We need high-road labor standards at all levels so that we can increase union power in this rapidly growing sector. We must expand union workforce development, including labor-management training programs, registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs, so that more union members are ready to take on these new jobs and unions are able to expand our ranks. We must meet increased demand and keep prices down for working-class families with all sources of energy and storage; Made in America supply chains; faster permitting; and a modernized, expanded grid. We need to stay engaged in global institutions and processes, in order to ensure a level playing field for U.S. workers and U.S. products. And we need real plans, funding and good union jobs to keep communities safe and make infrastructure resilient to escalating climate disasters, such as wildfires, storms, extreme heat and floods.

We also recognize that high-quality jobs held by union members across our economy in sectors producing or using fossil energy are at risk as well. Fossil-fuel production and use has not only provided the energy that made our modern economy, but also supports union jobs in a broad range of sectors—energy production, manufacturing, transportation, delivery networks and more. We know that true energy security means domestic production of both the fuels we need and the clean energy goods of the future.

Growing Our Movement and the Power Sector

We will organize, train new workers, and grow good union jobs across the power sector and its supply chains, and:

- Demand high labor standards, including safety and workforce development, at every level and in every part of the power sector and its supply chains, including mining, manufacturing, transportation, construction, operations and maintenance.
- Fight to protect today's good, union jobs in energy, while ensuring that any workers displaced by new technologies get either training, skills and a new good, union job of equivalent quality, and a pathway to pension and a dignified retirement.
- Fight to expand union workforce development, including labor-management training programs, registered apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship programs, so we meet this moment with union workers.

- Continue to grow our movement by ensuring equitable access to good, union jobs in energy for women, Black and brown workers, younger workers, veterans, returning citizens and LGBTQ+ workers.
- Advocate for laws and regulations that meet growing demand to include high-road labor standards; increasing the supply, transmission and storage of power from **all** energy sources; and protecting clean air and water for communities.
- Insist on long-term investments in a diversified, resilient, Made in America clean energy economy with good, union jobs and affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable energy.
- Demand permitting reform that prioritizes good, union jobs, faster project delivery, meeting electricity demand, and keeping energy affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable.

Affordable Electricity

Electricity bills in many states are now rising faster than inflation and workers' wages. While higher electricity bills have many causes, what is clear is that we need investments and policies that will meet electricity demand for the long term, protect and grow union jobs, and protect working-class households from unaffordable energy. We will:

- Ensure that working-class households are protected from unaffordable electricity bills, while opposing false solutions that throttle much-needed investment in the power sector and threaten good union jobs.
- **Oppose any privatization of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). TVA, while employing tens of thousands of union members, also provides self-sustaining, low-cost energy to over 10 million residents across seven southern states.**
- Advocate for federal and state investments in the power sector that control electricity prices for the long term, include high-road labor standards and domestic content requirements, and prioritize affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable energy and energy storage.

Good Union Jobs and Responsible Data Center Growth

Data centers are the physical foundation for the internet and the digital economy. Since data centers store, process and transmit our personal information, keeping data centers in the United States is key to protecting Americans' data privacy and national security. Data centers run on electricity and, going forward, will contribute to increased electricity demand.

Data centers and the infrastructure and supply chains that support them already employ tens of thousands of union members. But data center growth has also triggered a wave of community concerns, and not all the workers that support data centers are currently unionized or have access to quality wages and benefits. Rooted in our Constitution and in solidarity with each other and the working class, we will:

- Demand that data centers, the infrastructure that powers them and their supply chains are manufactured, built, operated, secured and maintained in the United States with union labor.
- Protect working-class households and communities by advocating for laws and regulations that require data centers to pay their fair share of energy and water costs, and ensure that jobs in energy-intensive manufacturing are not affected.
- Demand legislation and regulations that ensure that data centers conserve energy and water.
- The technology sector and the data centers that support it currently enjoy large financial returns. Data center operators, owners and developers should pay their fair share of taxes. What is fair must be determined on a state-by-state basis, starting with whether tax exemptions or other subsidies—if they are provided—also include labor standards, transparency and claw-back provisions in the event that these conditions are not met.
- Require comprehensive transparency from data center operators, owners and developers to the extent permitted by law, and that they avoid disparate impacts, engage with unions, communities, and state and local decision makers, and invest in projects and services that include high-road labor standards and benefit communities.

Global

Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act and the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act, the United States has had record investment and job growth in clean energy and its supply chains, and increasing union density in this sector.

We can continue to lead, but not by putting American workers and American interests on the world's sidelines while our competitors move ahead and negotiate agreements about the future of energy without us. We will:

- Advocate for continued U.S. government and labor engagement in international negotiations on climate, energy and energy jobs, particularly the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the International Energy Agency and the International Labor Organization.
- Work in solidarity with our union siblings in other countries and with the international trade union movement to ensure that American workers continue to have a voice on international energy and climate issues.

A Climate Resilient Economy Focused on Workers and Communities

The impacts of extreme weather are accelerating in the United States and across the world. Each year, the United States experiences bigger and more harmful climate-related events that are endangering workers where they live and on the job. The ever-increasing number and severity of wildfires, extreme heat events, floods and storms requires a large-scale, whole of government and worker-focused response, built on investments in public services, the public sector, infrastructure and good, union jobs. We will:

- Demand investments and policies at all levels that secure dedicated funding at scale with strong labor standards for the build-out of resilient infrastructure and expanded public services, disaster response, recovery and rebuilding.
- Fight for worker protections against climate impacts, including heat standards, exposure to smoke, safety for first responders and wage replacement programs for workers displaced by extreme weather events.
- Use a social and economic justice lens for investments, union jobs and services, so that rural, marginalized and Black and brown communities get timely and adequate funding and services for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
- Strengthen state systems for disaster preparedness, response and recovery to ensure all communities are protected from extreme weather events.

[SUBMITTED BY AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL]



June 16, 2026

Minneapolis City Council
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Council President and Members of the Minneapolis City Council,

We write on behalf of the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, and the Minnesota AFL-CIO to follow up on our correspondence regarding the proposed moratorium on data center development in Minneapolis. Together, our organizations represent hundreds of thousands of working people across the state who have a direct stake in the decisions before this Council.

Since our initial letter, delegates representing more than 15 million working people unanimously adopted Resolution 7, "We Want Good Jobs Today and Tomorrow," at the AFL-CIO's 30th Constitutional Convention — held last week in Minneapolis. The resolution directly addresses data center development and provides a worker-centered framework for balancing economic growth, environmental stewardship, energy affordability, and community interests.

The AFL-CIO recognizes that data centers are a critical component of the modern economy, already employing tens of thousands of union workers across the facilities, infrastructure, and supply chains that support them. At the same time, the resolution acknowledges legitimate concerns regarding energy consumption, water use, community impacts, and transparency. Rather than calling for moratoriums or outright bans, the labor movement adopted a policy framework demanding responsible development — calling for data centers to be built, operated, secured, and maintained with union labor; for operators to pay their fair share of energy and water costs; for conservation standards; for transparency and community engagement; and for policies ensuring public benefits and accountability.

Minnesota has already taken significant steps to address many of these concerns. The Legislature recently adopted a bipartisan framework governing very large energy users, including data centers. Under that framework, large energy users must bear the costs they impose on the electric system, protecting residential and commercial ratepayers from subsidizing infrastructure investments. The framework also requires these facilities to be served consistently with Minnesota's clean energy goals, with additional oversight by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to ensure consumer protections remain in place.

The questions driving this discussion — electric demand, grid reliability, environmental impacts, ratepayer protections — are already being addressed through state law and regulatory oversight. The Legislature did not conclude that Minnesota should prohibit data center development. It created a framework to ensure such development occurs responsibly and protects the public interest.

Rather than a moratorium, we urge the City to establish clear local expectations around:

- Strong labor standards and use of highly trained, skilled construction workers;

- Adaptive reuse of existing vacant and underutilized commercial buildings;
- Environmental performance and energy efficiency;
- Community engagement and transparency;
- Protection of neighborhoods and public infrastructure; and
- Ensuring redevelopment projects contribute to the city's long-term tax base and economic vitality.

Many of our members grew up in this city. They attended Minneapolis Public Schools, entered apprenticeship programs, and built careers in the building trades that allowed them to support their families, buy homes, and achieve a middle-class life. Those opportunities existed because previous generations chose to invest in Minneapolis rather than retreat from change. Embracing responsible development today creates the same pathways for the next generation.

The reality is that data infrastructure will continue to expand. The question is not whether data centers will be built — it is where they will be built and under what standards. If Minneapolis rejects the opportunity to modernize and repurpose vacant or underused buildings at a time when downtown vacancies and declining commercial values pose real fiscal challenges, investment will move elsewhere. We will lose jobs, property tax revenue, and opportunities to reinvest in buildings while still depending on the same digital infrastructure that powers our economy, schools, healthcare systems, and public services.

The AFL-CIO's unanimous action and the framework adopted by the Minnesota Legislature point in the same direction: responsible development, not prohibition. Both recognize that public policy should focus on strong labor standards, environmental stewardship, ratepayer protections, transparency, and community benefits — not moratoriums that risk pushing investment and jobs across our borders.

Minneapolis has an opportunity to lead by building on these frameworks and shaping development consistent with our values. We respectfully urge the City Council to reject the proposed moratorium and work with labor, community stakeholders, utilities, environmental advocates, and industry to establish a balanced framework that protects residents while allowing responsible investment to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the residents of Minneapolis.

Sincerely,



Dan McConnell
Business Manager, Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council



Bernie Burnham
President, Minnesota AFL-CIO



Chelsie Glaubitzi Gabiou
President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

COMMENTARIES

Union leader: Minnesota can lead on responsible data center development

We are more than capable of protecting our environment while supporting economic growth.

By Dan McConnell

Guest contributor(s) to the Minnesota Star Tribune

JUNE 16, 2026 AT 4:59AM



Amazon proposed a data center on a parcel of land near the Xcel Sherco coal-fired power plant, photographed Feb. 11, 2025, in Becker, Minnesota. (Anthony Souffle/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Opinion editor's note: *Strib Voices publishes a mix of guest [commentaries](#) online and in*

print each day. To contribute, [click here](#).

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Minnesota only moves forward when we choose progress over fear and collaboration over division.

This is the challenge ahead as communities debate data center development, artificial intelligence infrastructure, energy demand and economic growth. These are serious issues, and they deserve serious answers.

The Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council and our affiliated unions represent roughly 20,000 skilled construction workers. Our members understand the concerns about environmental impacts, infrastructure demands, water use, electricity costs and long-term planning.

We live here, too. We raise our families here. We care about Minnesota's lakes, parks, neighborhoods and natural resources like everyone else. Nobody wants development that harms the places we call home.

But we also know Minnesota can do hard things responsibly.

The question is not whether data centers and AI infrastructure will be built; they have existed in Minnesota for decades dating back to the early large-scale computing facilities. The real question is where they will be built, who will build them and under what standards.

Minnesota has an opportunity to lead the nation in responsible data center development.

That vision received strong support last week when delegates representing more than 15 million working people nationwide gathered here in Minneapolis for the AFL-CIO's 30th constitutional convention. The delegates unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing data centers as critical infrastructure supporting the modern digital economy while calling for strong labor standards, environmental protections, transparency and community accountability.

The labor movement's position is straightforward: Data centers should be built, operated, secured and maintained with union labor. They should pay their fair share of energy and water costs. They should conserve resources. They should engage with local communities. And they should create pathways into registered apprenticeship programs and family-sustaining careers.

That is not a choice between economic development and accountability. It is a framework for achieving both.

Minnesota is well positioned to set that standard. We already have strong environmental protections, utility oversight, prevailing wage laws and apprenticeship programs. We also have a growing framework to ensure large energy users pay the costs they create rather than shifting them onto families and small businesses. We are more than capable of protecting our environment while supporting economic growth.

If these facilities are going to exist, and they will, we should want them built here under Minnesota rules with Minnesota workers on one of the cleanest and most reliable energy systems in the country. Blocking responsible development does not stop technological change; it simply sends investment, jobs and tax revenue to states with weaker labor standards and weaker environmental protections. That would be a mistake.

This conversation is especially important for Minneapolis. Many proposed projects in the city are not massive new developments, but opportunities to modernize and repurpose vacant or underused buildings at a time when downtown vacancies and declining commercial values pose real challenges. Responsible redevelopment can stabilize the tax base, support local businesses, generate public revenue and bring new life to buildings that would otherwise sit empty.

These projects also create family-sustaining union construction careers. Many of our members, myself included, grew up in Minneapolis, attended Minneapolis Public Schools, entered registered apprenticeship programs and built middle-class lives through the building trades. These are the kinds of pathways we should be expanding for the next generation.

None of this means giving developers a blank check. Public incentives should come with strong labor standards, apprenticeship utilization, transparency, accountability and meaningful community benefits. Responsible development requires clear rules, environmental review, utility coordination and public engagement.

Concerns about energy use, water consumption, infrastructure impacts and affordability must be taken seriously. But the answer to legitimate concerns is better planning and stronger standards, not shutting the door on responsible investment. We can set clear expectations for sustainability, workforce development, infrastructure planning and community benefits. Strong standards do not block good projects; they make good projects possible.

Minnesota should not retreat from the future because the questions are complex. We should answer them better than other states. We should insist that innovation comes with

responsibility, that growth comes with accountability and that economic development benefits working people and local communities.

By working together, we can build a future that is cleaner, stronger and more inclusive for the next generation of Minnesotans.

Dan McConnell is the business manager for the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council. He represents approximately 20,000 unionized construction workers throughout Minneapolis and surrounding areas.

From: [Davis Temple, Liam \(he/him/his\)](#) on behalf of [Payne, Elliott](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Support Data Center Moratorium
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 4:04:54 PM

Please add for public comment for BHZ #7 tomorrow

From: LB Benson <benson.laura@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 3:31 PM
To: Payne, Elliott <elliott.payne@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Data Center Moratorium

Hi Council President Payne!

I wrote you about this once before, but every time my union, IBEW 292 tells me to contact you to work against a data center moratorium, I am going to write with in with my actual opinion, the opposite.

I am writing today as a member of IBEW Local 292. I got a notification from my union today that there was going to be a hearing on a potential data center moratorium this week. IBEW is advocating against the moratorium, but I am one member in sharp disagreement.

I have deep concerns about data centers. I worry about their impact on the environment, their drain on our energy infrastructure, and their tendency to exploit tax benefits (and therefore tax payers) only to make insane profits that leave our city & state. The people who are profiting off of data center development don't want what's best for working people in Minneapolis, they want to replace working people in Minneapolis.

The IBEW intends to "pack the house" in opposition to the moratorium at the hearing on Tuesday. I was just called back to work so I will not be able to attend, but as a ward 1 resident and apprentice electrician, I wanted to make sure that I voiced my personal support for this moratorium.

The handful of temporary electrical & construction jobs that come out of these data centers are not worth the many costs and risks that come with continuing to bolster AI development. We can and will find other things to build. We need to slow down and consider whether data centers are actually right for our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

LB Benson

3001 NE Tyler St

Minneapolis, MN 55418

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Maren Harden](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO DATA CENTERS
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:35:00 PM

You don't often get email from marenaharden@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please honor a moratorium on data centers so that regulations that protect residents and the environment are properly researched and put in place.

Minneapolis is proud of our clean water and beautiful city - do not let data centers and billionaires take priority over the people and special places.

AI is destroying our planet and brains at a rate faster than we can survive alongside it. Please put the well-being of Minneapolitans ahead of corporate greed and the endless pursuit of more.

Thank you for your time,
Maren Harden, 55406

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [kjohnson](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the data center moratorium
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 7:21:15 PM

You don't often get email from earnhardt311@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a concerned 40 year Minneapolis resident. Please support a moratorium on data centers. We need to protect our water and our commitment to clean energy. Think of our environment and our futures. We don't NEED this. We're losing more and more each day in Minnesota because of the current federal administration and their sick need to punish us. On top of everything and everyone we've already lost. We will fight this, too. Do the right thing today. Please!

Karen Mullen
4346 Morgan Avenue
Minneapolis 55412

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Sophie Opich](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CM Osman - No Data Centers
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:39:17 PM

You don't often get email from sophie.opich@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

My name is Sophie - Seward resident/member of CM Osman's ward. I am writing as an SD63 DFL delegate to ask CM Osman to please vote with my neighbors' interest in mind and vote AGAINST the data center pitch. I write this plea to share the stance of myself, my family, our friends, and our neighbors. I know you support the community's stance against AI Ubers/Waymo, so I hope you can understand this is the same fight. Waymo cannot exist without AI. Ai cannot exist without these data centers.

No one on my block or at the Seward Neighborhood meetups I've attended wants you to support any data center anywhere in the city. I spent a lot of my unpaid time this year attending DFL caucuses, conventions, and even paid to stay at a hotel in Rochester to represent the voices of my neighbors. I hope you will do the same and vote following our voices.

Please consider supporting the cause of the community and vote in favor of the moratorium on data centers.

Thank you,
Sophie Opich

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Em Harring
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:36:23 PM



Public Comment: Em Harring

Date: 06/15/26, 8:34 PM

2026-00446

I wholeheartedly believe we need a data center moratorium in order to do adequate research on the impacts of these centers. Preparing strict and adequate regulations on these centers is the absolute bare minimum. Anyone stating that those against data centers are operating out of "fear" have clearly not been paying attention to the rallying cry against data centers across the country. This is an issue that has *bipartisan support* -- that is how much people *do not want data centers in their cities and towns.*

Research indicates that opposition to data centers is only increasing, with a recent Gallup survey indicating that seven out of ten Americans "oppose constructing data centers for artificial intelligence in their local area, including nearly half, 48%, who are strongly opposed." (Citation: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/709772/americans-oppose-data-centers-area.aspx>)

In Q2 2025, 66% of the projected projects were delayed or outright blocked. This has only grown. In Q1 2026, there have been "at least 75 projects worth approximately \$130 billion disrupted by local opposition." (Citation: <https://www.datacenterwatch.org/q22025>; <https://www.datacenterwatch.org/q1-2026>) Again, research indicates that data centers are incredibly unpopular and it's, frankly, shocking that we're even having this discussion on allowing them in our city. We pride ourselves on our green spaces and clean water; being pro data center is in direct opposition to these values and beliefs.

Constituents across the country have been incredibly loud about the fact that any of their council members or lawmakers who vote in favor of data centers will have to contend with that during any re-election bid in the future. (Citation: <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/04/13/missouri-city-council-data-center->

00867259) As council members, your job is to represent your constituents, not the whims and desires of businesses and tech moguls who want to ruin our water, drive up our energy costs, and implement centers that, again, seven out of ten Americans *do not want.*

A moratorium is the bare minimum. As someone in Ward 7, I wish there wasn't an exception for downtown. This moratorium should be city wide, no exceptions. This is something our neighboring cities have achieved, such as the one-year moratorium on data center construction in effect in Inner Grove Heights.

I also strongly urge any council members that have not conducted their own research to do so. Yes, it is important to learn from experts. It's also important to educate yourself. Again, this is the bare minimum when your job is voting to best represent your constituents. Each of you should be holding multiple ward specific meetings on this specific matter due to the number of negative impacts these centers may bring to communities across the city.

Ward: Ward 7

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

<!--[if !mso]-->

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From: [Samantha Schullo](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Data center moratorium
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:52:29 PM

You don't often get email from samanthaschullo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Minneapolis Business, Housing, and Zoning Committee.

I am a constituent of Minneapolis. I work with young people as a Minneapolis Public School social worker. I am pregnant with my first child. I care deeply about the environment and creating a sustainable, healthy, just, and caring future for everyone- especially future generations.

Part of making that happen means saying NO to data centers in our city and state. Data centers do not offer enough positive contributions for city leaders to even consider allowing big tech companies to build data centers in Minneapolis that would compromise our environment and physical and mental health.

I feel strongly that data centers, AI, and current internet/technology use and misuse (especially among young people) is a problem we need to address seriously.

Please vote for a data center moratorium. Please advocate for putting time and resources towards projects that increase quality of life for Minnesotans for years to come- not just short term.

Thank you,

Samantha Schullo

4308 30th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 9:25:14 PM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/15/26, 9:23 PM

Minneapolis needs to say no to data centers. This community is proud and doing well, this can easily be taken away by data centers. Things are already starting to feel apocalyptic, allowing data centers will send us to that immediately. Minneapolis is a special place and will not be destroyed by data centers and billionaires.

Ward: Ward 9

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:08:08 PM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/15/26, 10:05 PM

Data center moratorium

I don't want data centers.

Keep data centers out of communities

Thanks

Ward: Ward 10

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Chowdhury, Aurin](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:49:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aurin Chowdhury

Minneapolis City Council Member – Ward 12

Pronouns: she/her & they/them*

350 S. Fifth St. – Room #307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Office: 612-673-2212

aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov

[*Why this matters](#)



From: amyvans@gmail.com <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Chowdhury, Aurin <aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance

Council Member Aurin Chowdhury,

Dear Council, my name is Amy Elliott and I live in Ward 9 in mid-Phillips. I am urging you to vote YES on the proposed data center moratorium on June 16. Proposing regulations and a data center work plan does nothing to stop any projects in the pipeline now. This is not a forever ban, but instead a pause to protect your constituents while proper measures are studied and enacted. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

amyvans@gmail.com

2420 11th Ave S

Minneapolis , Minnesota 55404

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links or attachments.

From: [Chowdhury, Aurin](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:49:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aurin Chowdhury

Minneapolis City Council Member – Ward 12

Pronouns: she/her & they/them*

350 S. Fifth St. – Room #307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Office: 612-673-2212

aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov

[*Why this matters](#)



From: aszani@me.com <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Chowdhury, Aurin <aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance

Council Member Aurin Chowdhury,

Dear Aurin, my name is Aszani Stoddard and I live in Ward 12 in the Howe neighborhood. I am urging you to vote YES on the proposed data center moratorium on June 16. Proposing regulations and a data center work plan does nothing to stop any projects in the pipeline now. We need this moratorium to protect our cities from billionaires who don't give a crap about us. This is not a forever ban, but instead a pause to protect your constituents while proper measures are studied and enacted. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

aszani@me.com

3605 40th Ave S

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

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From: [Chowdhury, Aurin](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:49:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aurin Chowdhury

Minneapolis City Council Member – Ward 12

Pronouns: she/her & they/them*

350 S. Fifth St. – Room #307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Office: 612-673-2212

aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov

[*Why this matters](#)



From: Rebecca Larson <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:20 PM
To: Chowdhury, Aurin <aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance

Council Member Aurin Chowdhury,

Dear Council, my name is Rebecca Larson and I live in Ward 3 in Nicollet Island/East Bank. I am urging you to vote YES on the proposed data center moratorium on June 16. Proposing regulations and a data center work plan does nothing to stop any projects in the pipeline now. We need this moratorium because we don't know the full ramifications of these projects, except we do know that the potential for environmental impact is very high. This is not a forever ban, but instead a pause to protect your constituents while proper measures are studied and enacted. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Rebecca Larson

rebeccalarson2@me.com

150 2nd Street NE

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Chowdhury, Aurin](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:50:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you so much for emailing in support! I hope you can attend the public hearing Tuesday, 6/16 at 1:30pm at City Hall.

Best,

Aurin Chowdhury

Minneapolis City Council Member – Ward 12

Pronouns: she/her & they/them*

350 S. Fifth St. – Room #307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Office: 612-673-2212

aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov

[*Why this matters](#)



From: Mary Lillestol <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:52 PM
To: Chowdhury, Aurin <aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance

Council Member Aurin Chowdhury,

Dear Council,

My name is Mary Lillestol and I live in Ward 1 in Windom Park.

I am writing to urge you all to vote YES on the proposed data center moratorium on June 16. Proposing regulations and a data center work plan does nothing to stop any projects in the pipeline now.

We need this moratorium to give the city and residents time to develop proper guidelines before data centers are built in neighborhoods. Without a pause, these facilities could be

approved without adequate review of their impact on surrounding communities — including noise, traffic, industrial footprint, and whether they actually benefit local residents. This is not a forever ban, but instead a pause to protect your constituents while proper measures are studied and enacted.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Mary Lillestol

Mary Lillestol

lillestol@gmail.com

2315 Taft St NE

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Chowdhury, Aurin](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:50:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aurin Chowdhury

Minneapolis City Council Member – Ward 12

Pronouns: she/her & they/them*

350 S. Fifth St. – Room #307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Office: 612-673-2212

aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov

[*Why this matters](#)



From: Molly Snuggerud <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 7:30 PM
To: Chowdhury, Aurin <aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on data center moratorium ordinance

Council Member Aurin Chowdhury,

Dear Council,

My name is Molly Snuggerud and I live in Ward 13 in East Harriet. I am urging you to vote YES on the proposed data center moratorium on June 16. Proposing regulations and a data center work plan does nothing to stop any projects in the pipeline now.

We need this moratorium to make plans for the future well-being of our community. This is not a forever ban, but instead a pause to protect your constituents while proper measures are studied and enacted.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Molly- a concerned grandma, neighbor and public health nurse

Molly Snuggerud

mollysnuggerud@gmail.com

3921 Aldrich Ave S
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 8:07:06 AM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/16/26, 8:00 AM

2026-00446

These data centers are a mirage. They are a lie sold by big tech with the promise of more jobs, but ultimately will leave our community with enormous energy bills (during an energy crisis they are helping to create) and polluted potable water (which we are already reaching a critical level with world wide). These big tech companies don't give a damn about the people of Minneapolis. So many of our families can hardly make ends meet as it is after Operation Metro Surge. Some families are still living in fear. Minneapolis cannot afford to give even an inch more space to data centers. Until their feet are held to the fire and they are forced to make renewable/sustainable technology, these data centers will continue to rape the land. We should stop all data centers moving forward until they have Proven (not promised) that they will not damage the ecosystem or our grid system.

Ward: Ward 8

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Julia Richards
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 9:25:54 AM



Public Comment: Julia Richards

Date: 06/16/26, 9:23 AM

2026-00446

Data centers take so many resources and are harmful to the communities they reside in. I do not want one anywhere near me!

Ward:

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Gary Dukes
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 11:05:01 AM



Public Comment: Gary Dukes

Date: 06/16/26, 11:02 AM

2026-00446

To: Business, Housing & Zoning Committee, City of Minneapolis

Date: June 16, 2026

.
Subject: Public Comment regarding Moratorium on Data Center Uses (File No. 2026-00446)

Dear Committee Chair Osman and Members of the Business, Housing & Zoning Committee,

My name is Gary Dukes, and I live at 5128 44th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417. I am a resident of Ward 12. I am writing to express my strong support for the temporary six-month moratorium on the establishment, re-establishment, or expansion of large-scale data centers within the city of Minneapolis.

As an advocate for water quality and watershed health in our community, I believe this pause is a necessary and responsible action. We are currently facing a period of rapid development, particularly in the AI-driven data sector, and this moratorium provides the essential "breathing room" required for our city to implement thoughtful, data-driven regulatory guardrails.

I urge the committee to prioritize the following during this six-month period of study:

- **Water Usage & Infrastructure Impact:** Many data center cooling systems rely on substantial water consumption, which has direct and indirect implications for our local water resources. We must rigorously assess how these industrial-scale operations impact our municipal infrastructure and watershed health. We

cannot afford to move forward without clear, transparent data on the long-term strain these facilities place on our environmental systems.

- Grid Stability & Energy Equity: Data centers are massive consumers of electricity. As we work toward our city's climate goals, it is imperative that we understand the burden these facilities place on our local electrical grid and how that consumption interacts with our broader sustainability objectives.
- Community Oversight & Accountability: For too long, the economic benefits of such massive infrastructure projects have been prioritized while the environmental and social costs have been socialized across our neighborhoods. The city must use this time to develop zoning ordinances that ensure large-scale industrial projects are properly vetted for their localized impacts, including heat island effects and energy demand.

This moratorium is not an argument for closing our city to innovation; it is a call for governance that protects the long-term health of our residents and our natural ecosystems. I trust the Committee will use this interim period to craft a permanent regulatory framework that prioritizes the public interest over unchecked industrial expansion.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the long-term sustainability of Minneapolis.

Sincerely,
Gary Dukes
5128 44th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
Resident, Ward 12

Ward: Ward 12

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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Public Comment

Row 1

Date Created	06/15/26 12:17 PM
Saved	☐
Name	
Issue/File	2026-00446
Comment	I support the moratorium on data centers. While data centers provide short term jobs and economic activity, they harm our communities, environment and health. This moratorium would protect our neighbors and our resources.
Ward	
Meeting Type	City Council
Council Committee	Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)
Independent Body	
Board/Commission	
Created By	web-form@smartsheet.com
Modified	06/15/26 12:17 PM
Modified By	web-form@smartsheet.com

Public Comment

Row 2

Date Created	06/15/26 12:06 PM
Saved	☐
Name	
Issue/File	2026-00446
Comment	Show that you are in support of community health and wellness by opposing the building of any data centers downtown! It will lead to higher energy costs for community, put pollutants in our water and air, and risk the health of those living in the area. Almost 50% of the community strongly opposes this decision because it is a betrayal of any commitment to protecting our lands and communities from known environmental and safety pollutants and a source of energy waste.
Ward	
Meeting Type	City Council
Council Committee	I don't know, share with all City Council
Independent Body	
Board/Commission	
Created By	web-form@smartsheet.com
Modified	06/15/26 12:06 PM
Modified By	web-form@smartsheet.com