

June 22, 2026

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Frey,

The Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) strongly supports the movement to enact a data center moratorium in Minneapolis. While this type of investment in our City core can have tangible value, we must ensure the data center boom serves the residents of Minneapolis and does so without causing unjustifiable strains on the City's environment and natural resources. A moratorium of at least six months is the first step to accomplishing this goal.

Given national news and contention regarding this issue, a temporary pause in data center development within Minneapolis provides us the opportunity to:

- Empower cities in and out of Minnesota to be critical of private developers pushing for data center construction
- Set legal requirement frameworks for regulating data centers and similar facilities in the future as a whole
- Signal the City is open to intentional and responsible business, not closed for business
- Demonstrate that Minneapolis is committed to the environmental ethic communicated through City programs and in the Climate Equity Plan
- Maintain our City's reputation as a leader in climate

If protecting our urban environment and natural resources is cause for investors and developers to look elsewhere, then they may not be the type of development we want to attract as a city. CEAC believes this issue can be a win-win, but not without the appropriate level of review and regulation. We urge you to vote yes on the passage of a data center moratorium.

More developed comments and recommendations regarding green data center development are pending CEAC review and should be expected within the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,
Community Environmental Advisory Commission