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Subject: Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers
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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to ask for amendments to the currently proposed zoning code being brought to the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

I'm strongly opposed to this zoning change because the risks to our community are simply too high. Cities across the country have seen their access to clean water drop dramatically after large data centers move in, and I refuse to watch Kansas City head down that same path. Our clean water should never be jeopardized for corporate convenience.

I'm also deeply concerned about the financial burden this would place on residents. When data centers drive up utility demand, it's everyday people who end up paying higher rates not the corporations benefiting from the development. And history shows a troubling pattern these companies often bring increased pollution, and when the damage is done, communities are left to deal with the fallout alone.

Kansas City deserves better than short-term gains that come at the expense of our health, our resources, and our future. I strongly urge you to consider the long-term consequences before approving this zoning change.

I urge you to be proactive about minimizing these harms by creating a zoning code that allows for more oversight in the following ways. The data center zoning code should:

Be its own zoning code rather than lumped in with Large Format Uses.

Require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the city council.

Include environmental impact studies.

Include environmental protections such as limiting water usage/cooling requirements and limiting fossil-fuel generators (including back-ups).

Require utility demand disclosure.

Require ample distance from residential neighborhoods.

If data center development is allowed to continue as is, Kansas Citians will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of utility rate increases, resource extraction, and pollution. Do right by Kansas Citians and demand a more thorough zoning code for data centers.

Thank you,
Cortney Park

