

From: [Isaac Speed](#)
To: [Melissa Patterson Hazley](#); [Willett, Nathan](#); [Bunch, Eric](#); [Parks-Shaw, Ryana](#)
Cc: [Yearwood, DJ](#); [Williamson, Annie](#); [Iden, Marissa](#); [McCoy, Keema](#); [Clerk](#)
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 on Dec. 9th. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

Data centers, especially for AI, are capable of using massive amounts of power, which will increase pollution and may spike utility rates for residents. As a software engineer, I recognize that while AI can provide some benefits for society, the utility is being greatly overblown by tech companies desperate to make a profit. They've pumped up a bubble that will pop and working class people will likely be the ones bearing the burden nationwide. Given the chance, they will take advantage of us locally too.

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:

1. Be its own zoning code rather than lumped in with Large Format Uses.
2. Require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the city council.
3. Include environmental impact studies.
4. Include environmental protections such as limiting water usage/cooling requirements and limiting fossil-fuel generators (including back-ups).
5. Require utility demand disclosure.
6. 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,
Isaac Speed