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 are so harmful to the environment and do almost nothing to help the people of our city. I personally despise the way AI is being used and having a data center built in/around the city I live in without me getting a say is so frustrating! These tech companies are some of the biggest and most powerful corporations in the world! And they're receiving tax incentives?? So that I can help pay for the ridiculous amount of electricity and water they need?? No, thank you! Let them pay for it. These companies promised to go green and fuel AI with only clean energy… please!! Hold them to that promise.

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,
Micah Self