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Subject: Support for Ordinance 251031
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Dear Mayor & Council Members,

I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance aimed at regulating data centers within Kansas City.

I also write to urge caution when considering opposition from individuals or businesses that may have a direct financial interest in the outcome of this ordinance. Professional expertise is an important part of this discussion; however, it is equally important for Council to consider the context in which that expertise is offered and to ensure that policy decisions are grounded in the long-term public interest rather than the commercial interests of the regulated industry or those who derive revenue from it.

For example, Mr. Justin Murray identifies himself as a licensed architect with over 25 years of experience in the design and operation of data centers and mission-critical facilities. That background, while relevant, also represents a clear conflict of interest. Firms that design, engineer, and derive ongoing business from data center development have a direct financial stake in minimizing regulatory oversight, narrowing definitions, and accelerating approval timelines. This does not invalidate Mr. Murray's views, but it does mean they should be weighed accordingly, alongside independent analysis that is not tied to industry revenue.

Anyone who characterizes public concern as "panic" dismisses legitimate questions raised by residents, city staff, and environmental experts regarding scale, pace, and long-term planning. The speed at which hyperscale facilities are being proposed is itself a reason for careful, forward-looking policy, not a justification for deferral. Past implementation challenges in unrelated policy areas do not argue against regulation; they argue for clearer standards and better alignment between approval processes and long-term impacts.

The Council should seek input from independent utility economists, grid planners, environmental analysts, and consumer advocates who do not have a direct financial interest in continued, rapid data center expansion. Balanced policymaking requires that the burden of demonstrating public benefit rest with developers proposing exceptionally large and resource-intensive facilities, not with residents raising reasonable concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Hemme
Kansas City, Mo

