

Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I'm writing to ask that you request changes to the zoning code being presented on December 9. As written, the proposed rules for data centers don't offer enough protection for the people who live and work in Kansas City.

I'm concerned about the strain these facilities place on our city's infrastructure. Their heavy demand for power and water can force Kansas City to make expensive upgrades sooner than planned, and those costs often end up spread across residents and small businesses. I own four retail stores across the metro, employing 100 people and I live in the northland. I worry about the decisions you make about these data centers on the cost of my business, the cost of my employees' livelihoods and what it means for my northland household.

I hope you'll take a careful, forward thinking approach to this issue. A stronger zoning code would give the city more control and help limit unintended harm. At a minimum, the code should:

- Stand alone as its own category rather than be grouped with other large format uses.
- Require a special use permit that must be reviewed and approved by the city council.
- Include environmental impact studies.
- Set clear environmental safeguards, including limits on water consumption and fossil fuel generator use.
- Require developers to disclose expected utility demand.
- Ensure meaningful distance between data centers and nearby homes.

If data center construction moves ahead without these guardrails, residents will be the ones absorbing the cost through higher utility bills, strained resources and increased pollution. Kansas Citians deserve a zoning framework that puts their well being first.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Gates

913-400-2013

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