

From: Emmaline Fitzgerald <emmaline.fitzgerald@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 10:57 AM

To: planadmin <planadmin@milwaukee.gov>

Subject: Proposed Data Center at Midtown

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Good morning,

I am strongly against the building of any proposed data centers, especially one right within our Milwaukee community. I am against this data center for the following reasons:

The Sherman Park area already has a horrible track record for being underserved and abandoned, leaving it as a food desert with a distinct lack of employment opportunities. Thousands of our Black neighbors have been displaced as a result. Black communities have been systematically oppressed and neglected for centuries; placing a data center here is furthering that agenda. Although the purpose of implementing a data center is that it will create more jobs, those positions are short term and primarily in construction of the facility. This will not provide a steady source of income in the long term for our neighbors who are in need of reliable income. Similarly, other states, such as Virginia, have found little economic benefit outside of the construction phase of a data center. I worry that the "tax incentives" for data centers and the forcibly invested money by the community will actually go back into the community.

Data centers are a huge consumer of energy and water and I have many deep concerns around the negative environmental impact. I would also like to note that the energy monopoly, We Energies, is proposing yet another rate increase in 2027-28, this time at 14%.

Our communities of color are often the first and worst hit by pollution, extreme weather conditions related to climate change, and other man-induced environmental health hazards (Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources). They intentionally do not have the same access to healthcare and opportunity as their white counterparts and I worry for how increased environmental concern will affect our Black neighbors. Speaking from personal experience, my time here in Milwaukee Co. has been filled with two historic floods within the last year alone and increased intensity and frequency in heavy rains and winds due to climate change, as well as increased heat in the summertime. Warmer weather can nearly triple the demand for water (Nature Forward). The effects of climate change put more pressure on our local resources to act quickly to stabilize the community, displace many of our neighbors for an unspecified amount of time, and cause disruptions within our day to day, such as having to miss days of work to attend to a flooded basement. Flooding water is heavily contaminated and is not safe to leave lying around.

Data centers depend on constant, large volumes of water to operate and cool their systems. We are incredibly lucky in the Midwest to have access to natural, large bodies of water, but there is worry that with globally increasing temperatures, that the US may face its first water shortage in the summer of 2026. Data centers constant use of water to power electricity use will turn our natural source of water into contaminated steam that will go back into the atmosphere. Our public supply of water serves all of its consumers, from residences and businesses, to our farms and neighbors. As previously mentioned, due to climate change, our access to natural resources is already becoming finite, and drastically

increased usage and manipulation of purity will only hinder us further and quicker. Enterprise data centers consume roughly 300,000-500,000 gallons of water per day.

From a highly concerned Milwaukee resident, please consider the lives of your residents and do not give in to the big tech for the sake of immediate economic benefit. The benefits do not outweigh the negative impacts that a data center will place on our communities. Given the current state of America, most are already struggling or failing to make ends meet as inflation continues to skyrocket. Data centers will only have the taxpayers spending more on a resource that they did not want and will not receive any financial benefit or reinvestment into the community from these centers. Milwaukee is already one of the most segregated cities in America, please do not cause further harm to the communities that have been suffering. We need to support each other more than ever, both as neighbors and as humans. Plain and simple, this is a humanitarian crisis.

Thank you for your time and for taking my email into consideration,
A very concerned citizen

Resources:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/climatechange/impacts>

https://www.fwpcoa.org/content.aspx?page_id=5&club_id=859275&item_id=130961

<https://natureforward.org/data-centers-and-water-use/>