

From: [Dayna Sherman](#)
To: [planadmin](#)
Subject: Objection to Midtown Center Property Data Center Construction
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed construction of a large-scale data center within the City of Milwaukee at Midtown center property.

While technological infrastructure is important, the long-term environmental, economic, and community costs and risks associated with these data centers raise serious concerns for all Milwaukee residents. Across Wisconsin and the nation, communities are becoming increasingly aware of whether these projects' costs and risks truly outweigh the benefits and their impact on local residents and their community. Evidence has shown these data centers primarily serve private corporate interests while placing substantial strain on many local public resources.

One of the most significant concerns is water consumption. Modern data centers require an enormous amount of water for their cooling systems, with some facilities using millions of gallons per day. Experts and recent reporting from Wisconsin media outlets have warned that data centers are increasingly targeting the Great Lakes region specifically because of the access to freshwater resources. Milwaukee's water health and supply should be protected as a public resource for its residents, future generations, and sustainable local industry — it should not be treated as an unlimited industrial utility for multinational technology companies. Even deep wells can dry up, and these companies will just move on to the next water supply, leaving us, those who live here with the repercussions.

In Wisconsin, communities including DeForest, Racine, Menomonie, and Mount Pleasant have already experienced significant public opposition and concern related to proposed data centers. Residents have raised issues and provided evidence supporting the rising electricity demand, utility infrastructure expansion, traffic, noise pollution, environmental degradation, and lack of transparency from developers.

Energy consumption is another major issue. Data centers have shown to consume as much electricity as entire small towns, placing unnecessary pressure on regional power grids while increasing the need for expensive utility infrastructure upgrades. Public utility experts in Wisconsin have already warned that ratepayers may ultimately bear some of these costs through higher residential utility bills. Milwaukee residents are already struggling with rising housing and utility costs. Projects that could further increase electric rates or burden local infrastructure should be carefully scrutinized.

Additionally, data centers often produce surprisingly few permanent jobs relative to the amount of land, energy, and tax incentives they consume. Communities across the country are increasingly questioning whether these facilities provide enough long-term economic value to justify the environmental and infrastructure impacts.

Environmental concerns also extend beyond water and electricity usage. Research has linked the rapid growth of AI-related data centers to increased carbon emissions, air pollution, and stress on local ecosystems. Residents in other communities have reported concerns involving noise pollution, vibration, industrial lighting, contamination risks, and destruction of natural spaces and farmland.

Milwaukee should prioritize development projects that directly improve quality of life for residents through sustainable housing, small business growth, parks, clean industry, public transit, and community-centered economic investment. A large industrial data center may permanently alter neighborhoods while offering a very limited benefit to the people who live here.

At a minimum, I urge the City to require:

- A full public disclosure of projected water and anticipated energy consumption and the impact they will have on

individual households.

- Independent environmental impact studies.
- Legally binding guarantees, preventing utility cost increases for residents.
- Strict noise, emissions, and pollution control standards that are also binding to legal action if not enforced with retributions in mind.
- Public hearings with great consideration to the community's input and opinion.
- Transparency regarding tax incentives and long-term economic benefits.
- Protection for local water resources, the Great Lakes and its infrastructure.

Milwaukee residents deserve transparent and community based decision-making with environmentally, economical and responsible development that protects the long-term health of its citizens and it's environment, affordability, and overall livability of our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dayna Heggerston
South Milwaukee Resident
Milwaukee, Wisconsin