

From: Kelsey Lexow <klexow120940@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 10:01 AM
To: planadmin <planadmin@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Advance Testimony Regarding Data Center at Midtown

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Esteemed Members of the City Plan Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a Data Center in the Midtown Center property on North 80th Street. While I understand the economic interests driving the push for digital and AI infrastructure in Wisconsin, this development poses a direct threat to our local environment and our community's quality of life. My opposition is rooted in the following critical concerns:

- **Environmental Resource Depletion:** As of early 2026, Wisconsin is home to an estimated 53 operational data centers. Data centers consume massive amounts of water and electricity for their cooling systems. This overuse, coupled with their reliance on fossil fuels and emergency diesel generators, directly threatens local air quality and puts untold strain on our natural resources.
- **Quality of Life Impact:** The constant industrial noise, increased traffic, and immense scale of the facility will disrupt the quality of life in an established residential, community-focused neighborhood. Any "economic growth" created by this project will be temporary and confined to the construction of a facility that will have long-term detrimental effects on the community.
- **Utility Rates & Grid Strain:** The colossal energy requirements of these mega-facilities divert resources and will likely lead to higher electricity rates for residents and small businesses. These increases would create further economic strain for families in an area where the average income is already below the city's median.
- **Lack of Transparency:** The lack of community input in planning this development is deeply concerning. Wisconsin communities are raising their voices against fast-tracked, corporate-backed data centers, as evidenced by dozens of grassroots protests across the state in the past 12 months.

I urge you to halt the approval of this project, enforce strict water and energy guardrails, and demand full transparency from developers before any zoning changes or building permits are approved. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Lexow
Concerned Party