

From: [Kathryn Fields](#)
Subject: Proposed Data Center at Midtown
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Dear City Officials,

My name is Kathryn Fields, and I am writing to express my immense concern about the proposed data center at Midtown on Milwaukee's north side. I was born and raised in Milwaukee and still reside on the north side, so I care deeply about this city and, most importantly, the people who live here.

As a White person, I cannot stay silent while I watch minority members of my community being directly and unfairly targeted by this proposal. Approving a data center in Midtown would be harmful to the surrounding neighborhoods and would place additional strain on a community that continues to already face enough environmental and economic burden. This data center is also concerning because of the risk this project poses to the Great Lakes, which are one of our most important natural resources.

I love Milwaukee and I deeply value our lakes, but I do not want to watch city leaders allow projects that could put them at serious risk. As community leaders, your responsibility is to serve the people of Milwaukee, not to prioritize a corporation that may cause more harm than good. This proposal reflects a larger pattern of environmental injustice, where low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to bear the negative health and environmental consequences of harmful land use decisions.

Data centers contribute to air pollution through fossil-fueled power plants and diesel backup generators. These sources release pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and contribute to serious health problems. Allowing this kind of development in a marginalized community increases health risks and may also create additional financial burdens for residents who already have limited access to health care.

Environmental racism and socioeconomic inequality must stop, but that will only happen if city leaders choose to put the community first. History has shown that environmental injustices often affect neighborhoods composed of marginalized racial and ethnic groups and residents with lower socioeconomic status. The American Public Health Association identifies unhealthy land use as a major driver of environmental health disparities (APHA, 2019). Environmental injustice weakens community growth, stability, and overall well-being.

We need policies that serve the underserved, not proposals that deepen existing inequities. Environmental racism often results from institutional decisions that disproportionately place undesirable land uses in communities of color. I have seen many residents speaking out about this issue on social media, and it is clear that this is not something Milwaukee citizens want.

Do not give in to racial and environmental injustices. Milwaukee deserves better, and I expect our city officials to do better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Fields