

Community Bill of Rights for Data Centers:

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Community Pushback Against Data Center is Strong and Increasing:

Bipartisan opposition to data centers strong and growing. Over 70% of Americans strongly oppose data centers in their communities, and because of largely grassroots opposition, \$156B in projects were delayed in 2025. Tech companies have promised that AI will be a vehicle of progress, drug discovery, productivity gains and accelerated design. But at what cost? Our jobs, our vocations, our creative expression and the future rights of our children to meaningfully contribute to our society and the very livability of our rural and urban communities.

License to build and operate data centers is increasingly predicated on goodwill and agreement of local communities. Tech companies are facing increasing opposition to prime sites for cooling, power access and license to operate. Corporations, politicians and Investors ignore this reality at their own peril.

Data centers are a powerful tool, and can catalyze tremendous opportunity. But like Corporate Capitalism and the ancillary benefits of growth, these benefits are not always equally distributed to the communities most impacted.

Beyond the documented environmental costs and noise disturbance, there is a deeper fear that these centers which demand so much water, electricity and tax giveaways, in turn conspire to replace the very things that make us human.

We advocate for a Human-centric approach which puts communities and neighborhoods in the driver seat.

AI and data centers can be a wonderful tool, but they are a terrible master. We do not oppose data centers per se, but license to operate must be subordinated to rights of the people who live and work in the communities. Bottom line, The communities most impacted by a data center must be the primary decision makers of whether it is sited in their communities.

Who is this for?

We believe that all data centers must abide by a simple rule. They must bring more value to their host communities than they extract.

Some communities may decide to site data centers in their community. This is their decision. Conversely, we applaud the empowered communities who, weighing the benefits and risks, choose not to site data centers in their communities. Most importantly, we oppose the political and corporate forces who thwart the will of the people, and serve the profits of tech companies over the rights of people. Local control must be the test of these decisions

Community Bill of Rights for Data Centers

Empowered communities must have their own Community Bill of Rights for Data Centers, and these local leaders and citizens should be the primary decision makers on whether or not to site data centers in their communities.

Data Centers must fundamentally add more value than they extract from communities. We believe that Data centers can unleash economic value and long-term community benefit, but only if they abide by some core principles of responsible partnership. We outline these below. We believe Tech companies who work to align themselves their host communities needs show good business sense. It is good business to be a good neighbor.

Community Data Center Bill of Rights

1) Private Property rights over data centers

Freedom to build must be anchored by shared commitment to responsibility. In the Ozarks we understand this. If you open a gate, close it. Leave your campsite better than your find it. Property rights are sacred, your pollution better stop at my fence line.

This is also true for Data Centers, which are responsible for an estimated \$25 billion dollars of real pollution and health externalities. Data Centers can be tool of innovation, economic growth and shared prosperity. But they may not operate at the expense of our water supply, air quality, peace of mind and shared quality of life. Property rights are a foundation principle of American law. Noise pollution, air pollution and the

degradation of water resources of data center host communities decreases property values, diminishes quality of life, and violates this shared covenant.

2) No Tax Credits without Job Creation

Data centers must provide job creation and monetary benefit commensurate with the tax benefit, water and power resources that they consume. Tax credits are a powerful economic development incentive that communities may use for responsible tech and business partners. However, state and local sales and property tax abatement must be directly tied to permanent and ongoing local job creation and revenues that go back to local states, counties and municipalities. There must be enforceable legal means to revoke these tax credits if job and revenue benefits are not realized.

3) Local control, not state or federal mandate is the fundamental arbiter of whether a data center may operate.

No secret deals, NDAs or clandestine deals. Data Centers which have an outsize impact on communities must be subject to the highest levels of public input, disclosure and visibility.

4) No Rate Hikes for Consumers.

Utilities customers should not bear the cost of additional generation and grid upgrades in order to accommodate additional power demand. Utilities should require exit fees if data center breaks contract, and minimum power contract terms of 15 years to ensure grid stability and cost recovery.

5) Waste Heat and unused Buffer Land Are Assets that Should be Leveraged for Economic, Community and Agricultural Production.

Encourage use of waste heat from data center to warm swimming pools, indoor practice facilities, and hydroponic greenhouses. For example, low-grade wasted heat from data centers can reduce cost of running a hydroponic greenhouse while minimizing dependence on natural gas or propane as traditional heating source. These greenhouses grow food for communities, create jobs and create long term community good will for the tech data center partner. Data centers often require significant buffer

land. One such use is for Agrivoltaics, which involves siting solar production in pasture, which allows cattle or smaller grazing animals like sheep to use the land, shelter under the shade of the panels. This creates a dual revenue source for farmers while also minimizing heat stress on livestock.

6) Union or Local Contractors and Suppliers Should be Used for Project which receive Tax Credits.

When possible, local companies, contractors and Unions should be preferentially sought to build projects that use state and local tax credits. This ensures that these jobs and the economic benefit stays in the communities that host these sites.