

22280 Berring Avenue  
Farmington, MN 55024

Gary Johnson

Telephone/Message – (651) 226-4735  
e-mail – garywj50@icloud.com

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To: Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate  
Ref: Energy-20250122-GaryJohnson  
Dear: Committee Members

I am a resident of Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota. I have many concerns with the onslaught of data centers trying to be built in my communities. In addition to water, noise, light, the environment, lack of new jobs and citizens quality of life, power is also major concern.

There are many articles that have been written documenting the problems and forewarning of potential future problems that are yet to be developed. In other area of the country where data centers have been built in and grouped together new realities have become commonplace problems.

Minnesota is in its infancy where these new hyperscale data centers are concerned. We must slow down and thoroughly investigate the problems discovered by other communities before opening ourselves up to repeat the same problems.

Some of the problems of specific concern to me are the availability of electric power for residences and other commercial/industrial uses, problems with low voltage spikes damaging others electrical equipment, higher rates forced onto consumers by utilities to produce and deliver massive electric power to the data centers, especially when they are clustered together.

I can not proper explain or provide all the details of my concerns so I will simply list references and links to articles and research which will provide more details. I hope you will take the time to read and evaluate to information, at least some of it to get a better understanding to the serious concerns I have discovered in reading them.

**AI Power Needs Threaten Billions in Damages for US Households**

Bloomberg.com – 12/27/2024

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2024-ai-power-home-appliances/>

**Soaring data center electricity demand could trigger Northwest blackouts, industry insiders say – Oregon Tech – 12/11/2024**

<https://www.oregonlive.com/silicon-forest/2024/12/soaring-data-center-electricity-demand-could-trigger-northwest-blackouts-industry-insiders-say.html>

**The Hidden Impact of AI Data Centers on Our Power Grid – Youtube –**

<https://youtu.be/pJ0H2rq7Myw>

**Mega data centers are coming tyo Minnesota. Their power needs are staggering**

The Minnesota Star Tribune – 1/10/2025

<https://www.startribune.com/mega-data-centers-are-coming-to-minnesota-their-power-needs-are-staggering/601204129>

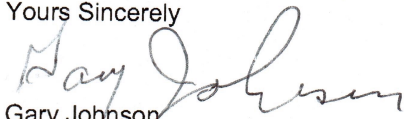
**States rethink data centers as 'electricity hogs' strain the grid**

Minnesota Reformer – 5/2/2024

<https://minnesotareformer.com/2024/05/02/states-rethink-data-centers-as-electricity-hogs-strain-the-grid/>

As I have run out of space I will sign off by saying there are many articles dealing with the promise of falling electric rates only to see them rise because of the infrastructure costs associated with suppling and transmitting power to these "Power Hog".

Yours Sincerely



Gary Johnson

Member of the Coalition for Responsible Data Center Development