



2429 Nicollet Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)

March 11, 2025

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our opposition to Senate File 1393, a bill providing for data center energy generation redundancy. We oppose the bill for three reasons.

**First, Minnesota ought to take a more comprehensive approach to evaluating the siting of data centers.** As proposals for large-scale data centers are emerging across Minnesota, residents, utilities, local governments, agencies, regulators, and policymakers are all racing to catch up. According to [Datacentermap.com](http://Datacentermap.com), Minnesota currently has at least sixty-one data centers, most of which are relatively small. In addition to these, the Minnesota Star Tribune reported on January 10, 2025 that another ten data centers are in development, some of which are hyper-scale. Given the potential impacts of these large-scale data centers on communities, water, and our energy system, we owe it to ourselves to develop a more comprehensive, systematic way of evaluating these facilities as a whole, not one impact at a time, one proposal at a time.

**Second, Senate File 1393, if enacted, would lessen the transparency Minnesotans ought to expect around large air emissions-producing facilities.** The bill aims to exempt backup generators of 50 MW or more from the Certificate of Need process in section 216B.243 that we use with other large energy generation facilities. Additionally, it proposes to remove these facilities' environmental review from the Environmental Impacts Statements required in section 116D.04, subdivision 4a to an alternative urban areawide review process. Both of these changes would leave Minnesotans with fewer tools to understand what's being built in their community, and what their potential impacts are.

**Third, the potential impacts of this exemption is unknown.** On Friday, March 28th, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission rejected Amazon's request for a Certificate of Need exemption for its proposed 250 diesel backup generators. These generators, at maximum output, could produce 600 MW of electricity, a capacity that almost matches the 647 MW produced by the Monticello nuclear plant. This bill would exempt not just this very large facility, but all facilities over 50 MW, without giving communities and regulators a chance to understand their impacts.

For example, Minnesotans deserve to know more about how often an air-emitting backup generator would operate. According to Uptime Intelligence's Annual Outage Analysis for 2024, "more than half (55%) of operator respondents to the 2023 Uptime Institute data center survey report having an outage in the past three years". A Certificate of Need review is exactly the kind of tool we need to understand more about the scale, frequency, and duration of potential backup generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments,

*Aurora Vautrin*

**Aurora Vautrin**

Legislative Director of 100%

2429 Nicollet Ave

Minneapolis, MN 55404

[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)