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Testimony to the Senate Environment Committee on SF1393

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I'm Peter Wagenius, Legislative Director for Sierra Club

If drinking water is polluted downstream of hyperscale Data Centers in Minnesota, it won't matter to tech bros in Silicon Valley. If farmers in Minnesota can't use the water they needed for irrigating their crops because of water pollution or water depletion from Data Centers, it won't affect the stock price of Amazon, Google, Microsoft or others. If our energy grid in Minnesota or our ability to reduce our emissions is damaged, Jeff Bezos and other tech billionaires aren't going to lose power at their mansions.

They won't lose sleep over any of this, because not only will they have already built their projects, they will have already cashed their subsidy checks from Minnesota taxpayers.

Some will claim that we can't make these tech giants protect our environment because it would be an imposition on businesses operating in the free market. This is nonsense. There is no free market here. These tech companies are getting massive taxpayers subsidies. And unless this legislature takes action on the uncapped subsidy, Minnesota taxpayers will just pay more and more.

We know that this year education, health care or other services will be cut \$100 million dollars deeper than needed to keep the gravy train of corporate welfare moving. Voters will not forget this. Americans of both parties are angry at seeing their country handed over to Billionaires of Big Tech.

Americans' anger is visible in Wisconsin and in town halls around the country. This anger is growing. Being oblivious to that anger or to the dangers posed by Big Tech's data centers is unwise.

If Minnesotans are to be protected from those threats it will only be because Legislators insisted on it. SF1393 doesn't do that.