

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

August 31, 2026

Dear Governor Walz,

The undersigned groups request that you use your executive authority to establish an immediate moratorium on the approval, permitting, and construction of hyper-scale data centers in Minnesota, to remain in effect until a regulatory framework is established to safeguard water, our energy infrastructure, democratic processes, and the [health and welfare of affected communities](#).

A moratorium is necessary to prevent irreparable harm during the absence of these regulations. While the legislature [made some progress in 2025, much is left to do](#). During the 2026 session, no data center bills made it to your desk, including three bills which passed the Senate but not the House.

A pause on hyper-scale data center construction will allow time for communities to work through big unanswered questions about specific proposals in their communities. In the absence of legislative action in 2026, [many municipalities across Minnesota have created local moratoria](#), creating a patchwork of local regulations. Even the developers and their AI tenants admit they have major questions to answer and decisions to make to mitigate impacts on people and planet. The potential impacts of these projects should be well understood so Minnesotans can participate in the review process outlined in Minnesota law.

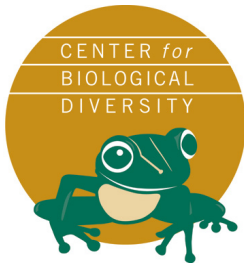
This is paramount, as many proposals have been concealed behind non-disclosure agreements, preventing citizens from understanding what is being proposed and preventing public engagement on critical decisions made by local governments. A moratorium would help reset the dynamic, lower the temperature, and provide Minnesotans living near proposed sites (mostly rural folks in small cities like Hermantown, Pine Island, and Faribault) a fair chance to have their say.

A bill for a moratorium, HF 4888 (Finke) and SF 4298 (McEwen) did not pass during the 2026 legislative session. The Business Partnership and Chamber of Commerce made sure Republicans blocked that effort and the MN AFL-CIO, at the behest of trade unions, convinced Democrats not to pursue the popular effort. Since the end of the session, the movement against data centers has only continued to grow. Backlash is remarkably bipartisan, and [Republicans have been moving quickly to harness the moment](#) and outflank Democrats, like in [the Michigan Governor's race](#).

Governors are acting. In Illinois, [Governor Pritzker responded](#) to a similar situation by using his executive authority to pause hyper-scale data center permitting until the legislature could act. In [New York](#), [Pennsylvania](#), and [Texas](#), Governors have used their executive authority to pause data center development or put guardrails in place.

In Minnesota it's up to you to ensure hyper-scale data centers are paused until the next session when there will be another opportunity for the legislature to establish protections for our families, communities, and natural resources. Voters aren't sure which political party is better on data centers. By using your executive authority now, you make it clear that it's the DFL, at least under Governor Tim Walz.

Best,



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