



# Facts OVER Fears

## A Strong Future for Minnesota Requires Responsible Data Center Development

Minnesota stands at a crossroads. Stagnant population growth and rising economic uncertainty mean we must act decisively to secure the industries that will power a strong and prosperous future.

Data centers represent one of the most significant infrastructure opportunities of our time, bringing high-wage construction jobs, long-term tax base growth, and the tangible potential to accelerate Minnesota’s clean energy transition.

Minnesota has what it takes to build these data centers and build them well. Our state’s commitment to environmental responsibility, transparency, and well-governed policy runs deep; here, we do things right, and we take care of the people and land around us.

**A data center project is no exception.**

### Fear

### Fact

1

Data centers will **increase electricity costs** for residents and other ratepayers.

**Minnesota law requires data centers to pay their fair share.**

In 2025, Minnesota passed HF16\*, a comprehensive package of data center-related policies that includes nation-leading protections for electricity ratepayers. These protections ensure that data centers pay their full cost of service and that no costs may be transferred to other ratepayers.

\*View the full MN HF16 act at [www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/12/](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/12/).

2

Data centers put Minnesota’s **clean energy future at risk.**

**Data centers have become drivers of the clean energy transformation and will operate within Minnesota’s goals of carbon neutrality.**

Data centers must achieve Minnesota’s renewable and carbon free-standards and by increasing demand for renewable energy, they can actually accelerate our clean energy transition. Furthermore, if electric utilities extend service to data centers, it must not delay Minnesota’s 2040 carbon-free energy timeline.

3

Data centers **won’t produce any “real” jobs.**

**Data center construction and operations will create a multitude of high-paying short- and long-term career opportunities.**

Data center development prioritizes union partnerships, local hiring, and long-term career opportunities, with the potential for 100+ high-paying jobs once fully operational. Additionally, construction will create ripple effects in housing, retail, and services, supporting ~6 jobs for every 1 job at the data center, according to PwC.

4

The economic growth benefits are **temporary.**

**Data centers anchor long-term economic growth and drive billions in investment.**

Data centers support local, county, and state tax bases, fund infrastructure upgrades (fiber, utilities, etc.), and are magnets for attracting new businesses and skilled talent.

5

Data centers will **drain our water resources.**

**Modern data centers operate on air cooled systems, requiring no outside water once built.**

In an air cooled system, the water in the facility stays in the facility without consuming any additional new water.

6

Data centers will **disrupt our communities.**

**Data centers support the critical hospital, school, and public safety systems that our communities rely on daily—and they have for a long time.**

While the spotlight on data centers is brighter than ever before, these facilities are not new. Our communities have relied on data centers for decades—and as data needs grow, technology adoption increases, and uses become more integrated, more facilities are needed to keep our businesses and communities running.