

Acacia Deadrick

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108

10 January 2025

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2025

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Vice Chairman Hanson:

My name is Acacia Deadrick, a resident of Sioux Falls who was born and raised in South Dakota. I am writing today after learning of the potential for hyperscale data centers to be erected in the state. While I appreciate the Public Utilities Commission's involvement in conversations about this possibility and concern with related issues such as energy demand, I worry that there is not enough concern with the noise pollution that often accompanies data centers.

As is well known, the equipment required for many data centers to run properly generates incredible amounts of noise pollution, and people from multiple communities, including Chicago, Illinois and Granbury, Texas, have cited significant health issues – chronic migraines, vertigo, nausea, hypertension, and depression, among others – that stem from the noise pollution caused by nearby data centers. If placed too close to an existing South Dakota community, residents, particularly the most vulnerable, may be subject to such health issues.

Additionally, noise pollution has been known to impact biodiversity. If put up without thought, because of their noise pollution, data centers pose major risks to the loss of biodiversity. As a state with varying terrains and wildlife, as well as a National Park that plays a significant role in South Dakota's identity and tourism industry, we must protect our biodiversity to ensure our state remains a haven for the outdoorsman.

While I understand that the economic potential of a hyperscale data center is great and such a business could lead to growth for South Dakota, not all growth is good growth, especially when it potentially stands to harm lifelong South Dakotans who want to see the state thrive for generations to come. I also understand that not all hyperscale data centers come with noise pollution, but if one business of its kind comes to the state, another may follow, and with that could come the aforementioned issues.

I urge the state, within reason and its capabilities, to carefully consider whether a hyperscale data center is right for South Dakota. If it is right for South Dakota, I urge the state to be strategic in allowing where businesses of that ilk can be placed and to be proactive in protecting citizens should data corporations break local and/or state ordinances. The ramifications these businesses have had on other communities across the country are documented; do proper and thorough research before making an irreversible decision.

Thank you for your consideration,



Acacia Deadrick