

**From:** [Justin Murray](#)  
**To:** [cc 1](#)  
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**Subject:** opposition to Ordinance 251031  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:14:08 PM

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Dear Mayor & Council Members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed ordinance aimed at regulating data centers and mission-critical facilities within Kansas City, Missouri. As a resident and a licensed architect with over 25 years of experience in the design and operation of these environments, I believe the current legislation is shortsighted, poorly defined, and unlikely to achieve its intended goals of reducing energy or water consumption effectively.

- **Vague Definitions:** The proposed definition of "A building dedicated to the storage, management, processing, and/or transmission of digital data, including supporting equipment related to digital data operations" is overly broad [1]. This could inadvertently subject a wide array of essential infrastructure—such as network switching centers, cell towers, call centers, and research labs—to excessive regulation, hindering necessary urban development and technological support
- **Market Misrepresentation:** While certain large-scale (hyperscale) facilities have received negative attention, they represent only a portion of the diverse market, which also includes enterprise, co-location, and telecom carrier facilities. Generalizing based on a few examples misrepresents the entire industry and the critical services these varied centers provide.
- **Regional Competition & Utility Regulation:** The energy consumption of these facilities falls under the Southwest Power Pool, a multi-state grid [1]. Regulating consumption locally will likely only drive new facilities to neighboring cities, moving the tax base and job opportunities elsewhere without an overall reduction in regional electricity use or a change in utility rates. AI facilities are still likely to be built in neighboring cities and consume the same power, and potentially raising rates. But Kansas City will miss out on the construction jobs, and the earning taxes for those jobs.
- **Urgency & Process:** The current process appears rushed and influenced by public panic, similar to previous hurried legislative efforts that have proven problematic. Adopting the 2021 Energy code and poor implementation of that policy has already demonstrated the challenges of implementing legislation without thorough

consideration of the potential side effects.

- Legislation to protect residential area from the noise and light concerns would be better to focus on noise and light level restrictions at the property lines than a blanket zoning for broadly regulating an industry in a city as large and spread out as KCMO.

I urge the Council to slow down and meet with knowledgeable data center providers and industry experts within the community before moving forward with a vote. A more informed approach will foster sustainable development while ensuring the legislative definitions are precise and effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Please add this to the record.

Sincerely,

**JUSTIN MURRAY**, AIA, LEED AP

**BELL/KNOTT & ASSOCIATES**

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