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Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Senator Mathern

Representative Heilman

A concurrent resolution encouraging the Legislative Management to consider legislation to ensure transparency regarding data centers proposed, constructed, or developed in this state.

WHEREAS, a data center is a facility constructed primarily for the storage, management, and processing of digital data, which houses computer and network systems, including associated components such as servers, network equipment and appliances, telecommunications systems, Internet-related equipment and services, data communications connections, environmental control systems, fire protection systems, security systems, and other equipment and infrastructure necessary to support the operation of the facility; and

WHEREAS, data centers are substantial consumers of electricity and water, significantly affect land use, and may degrade local environmental quality in the communities in which the data centers are located; and

WHEREAS, addressing the potential water, energy, and land use impacts of data centers solely at the permitting stage may result in unforeseen impacts on water and energy resources and may affect existing businesses and land uses; and

WHEREAS, protecting the long-term sustainability of the state's natural resources requires a proactive approach to planning and oversight to promote economic development and the public interest while reducing the potential for future conflicts and competition for resources; and

WHEREAS, state and local agencies and authorities should promote transparency regarding proposed data center projects, including negotiations, contracts, incentive agreements, and potential community and environmental impacts, to foster public confidence and meaningful community participation; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota Century Code Chapter 44-04 establishes requirements for public access to records of public entities, subject to certain exemptions for confidential or proprietary information, providing a framework for transparency and community involvement regarding proposed data center projects; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to ensure transparency regarding data centers proposed, constructed, or developed in this state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Legislative Management consider legislation to ensure transparency regarding data centers proposed, constructed, or developed in this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management, if appropriate, prepare legislation for consideration by the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.