

# Petition for a Temporary Moratorium on New Data Center Developments in Laramie County and Cheyenne, Wyoming

We, the undersigned residents and concerned citizens of Laramie County and Cheyenne, Wyoming, respectfully petition the Laramie County Board of Commissioners and the Cheyenne City Council to **immediately adopt a temporary moratorium** (minimum of 12-18 months) on the approval, permitting, and construction of any new data centers, data center expansions, or associated large-scale power-generation facilities (such as natural gas-fired plants) within Laramie County and city limits.

## Rationale and Key Concerns:

- **Unprecedented Scale and Speed:** Projects like Project Jade (Crusoe Energy/Tallgrass Energy) were approved in January 2026 and could scale from 1.8-2.7 GW initially to **10 GW**—nearly triple Wyoming’s entire current household power demand. Other developments include Related Digital’s 302 MW facility (ground broken 2025), Meta’s Project Cosmo, Microsoft’s planned 3,200-acre expansion (announced April 2026, tripling its existing footprint), and reports of **at least 35 additional projects** under consideration in the Cheyenne area over the next five years.
- **Speculative, Profit-Driven Development Without Adequate Expertise:** Many projects appear driven by quick profit motives rather than careful planning. Individuals and companies with little experience in large-scale industrial operations are rushing into the data center sector, increasing the risk of poorly designed facilities that may be abandoned or fail. Abandoned industrial sites leave permanent scars and environmental damage that cannot be undone.
- **Oversaturation and County-Wide Industrial Encroachment:** Laramie County and Cheyenne already host multiple large data centers and expansions (including Project Jade, Related Digital, Meta’s Project Cosmo, Microsoft’s 3,200-acre expansion, and others). These developments threaten the quality and way of life across the entire county and city—not just in one area. Underserved, under-resourced, and historically unrepresented communities in Cheyenne and Laramie County are especially at risk, often lacking the same level of advocacy and protection afforded to more affluent areas. No one wants to live next to or within an industrial business park; these projects fundamentally alter the livability of our shared communities.
- **Precedent Elsewhere:** Multiple Mountain West counties (e.g., Larimer and Logan in Colorado, Kootenai in Idaho) have enacted moratoriums to study impacts. National calls for pauses exist to allow proper planning.

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**We are not opposed to responsible economic development**, but these industrial-scale projects of unprecedented size and scale should not be approved using standard regulations. This is far from standard economic development and requires thorough due diligence. A moratorium will allow time for:

- Independent **cumulative** impact studies focused on air emissions, public health, permanent land-use changes, water resources, and environmental consequences.
- Full public disclosure of long-term operational plans, including realistic assessments of emissions, water usage, infrastructure costs, and the true risk of project abandonment.
- Updated zoning and conditional-use standards with strong protections for existing agricultural, residential, and rural communities throughout all of Laramie County and Cheyenne.

We urge our elected officials to prioritize the long-term health, safety, environmental integrity, and livability of all residents of Laramie County and Cheyenne—especially those in underserved and under-resourced areas—over rapid, unchecked approvals.

**Requested Action:** Adopt the moratorium at the earliest possible meeting and form a stakeholder working group, including residents and independent experts, to guide future regulations