

February 17th, 2021

IBEW
LOCAL 110
Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

Honorable Paul Marquart
Chair, House Taxes Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Marquart:

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 110, I write to express my opposition to Article 3, Section 1, Subdivision 42 of the governor's tax bill (HF991), reducing a sales and use tax exemption for qualified data centers.

Jamie M. McNamara

BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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By way of background, IBEW 110 was chartered in 1912 and represents 2,300 industry professionals in a jurisdiction that hugs the east side of the state, running from Rice County in the south to Kanabec County in the north.

Our members and our partner contractors derive thousands of work hours building, maintaining, and repairing these data centers, which are heavy on wiring and electronic components.



We have heard clearly from those who own and operate these facilities that their decision to locate and remain in Minnesota is heavily influenced by the tax incentive at issue here.

We also know that data centers can easily be built in or re-located to other states.

You and your Taxes Committee colleagues should be proud of this incentive as it is excellent tax policy, clearly satisfying the "but for" test that is the hallmark of a legitimate tax incentive.

You will recall that this isn't the first time there has been a governor's proposal to reduce the incentive. Each time, the legislature has wisely rejected the proposal on a bi-cameral, bi-partisan basis.

We are proud of the partnership we have with the many diverse companies who call upon our members to build, repair and maintain these centers. This is especially true during these times of economic difficulty. The simple fact is that many of my members are putting food on the table because of the work these facilities provide.

Please reject this proposal.

Sincerely,


Jamie McNamara, Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW Local Union 110

cc: Representative Greg Davids – Republican Committee Lead

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