



July 30th, 2026

Mayor Parker and Members
Fort Worth City Council

RE: Proposed Data Center Moratorium

Mayor Parker and Members of the Fort Worth City Council:

On behalf of Texas Policy Research, I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed moratorium on new data center development.

Our opposition rests on a simple principle: Texans have the right to use their private property for lawful purposes, and government should be cautious before suspending that right through temporary prohibitions. A strong economy depends upon predictable rules, secure property rights, and the confidence that lawful investment will not be placed on hold whenever new challenges emerge.

A development moratorium sends the wrong message to property owners, businesses, and investors. It suggests that even when a proposed use complies with existing law, the city may suspend that use while it determines what policies it wishes to adopt. That uncertainty extends well beyond data centers. Stable communities and healthy local economies are built on clear, predictable rules, not temporary freezes that leave property owners and employers wondering whether lawful projects will be allowed to proceed.

Private property rights do not become less important simply because a new industry attracts public attention. As technology evolves, new industries will continue to emerge, each bringing unfamiliar questions and challenges. Those questions deserve thoughtful answers, but they should not become a justification for suspending the lawful use of private property. Texans should not lose the ability to develop their land simply because the technology involved is new or rapidly evolving.

The concerns residents have raised regarding noise, water consumption, electrical infrastructure, traffic, and compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods are legitimate. However, the appropriate response is not to prohibit an entire category of lawful development while the City deliberates. If additional protections are necessary, Fort Worth already possesses planning and zoning tools capable of addressing those concerns. The City can adopt clear, prospective, and narrowly tailored standards that apply equally to future projects. Predictable rules protect neighboring property owners while preserving the freedom to invest and build.

Texas Policy Research has consistently argued that large electricity users, including data centers, should bear the costs they impose on public infrastructure rather than shifting those costs onto existing ratepayers. We have supported policies that require new large-load customers to pay their own way. That principle, however, is entirely separate from whether a property owner should be permitted to lawfully develop land. Responsible infrastructure planning and strong private property rights are complementary principles, not competing ones.

This decision also carries implications beyond Fort Worth. As one of Texas's largest cities, Fort Worth's actions will inevitably influence how other municipalities approach emerging industries. A decision to impose a moratorium risks encouraging a patchwork of temporary prohibitions across Texas, creating uncertainty for property owners, employers, and investors. Texas has long been recognized as a place where businesses and families can rely on stable rules and respect for private property. Preserving that reputation requires governments to address legitimate concerns through transparent policymaking rather than temporary suspensions of lawful activity.

Economic liberty is more than an abstract principle. It represents opportunities for landowners to realize the value of their property, for contractors and skilled tradesmen to earn a living, for local businesses to grow, and for workers to provide for their families. Those opportunities should not be placed on hold when less restrictive and more targeted solutions are readily available.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the City Council to reject the proposed moratorium and instead pursue any necessary policy changes through clear, transparent, and narrowly tailored regulations that address specific impacts while preserving the fundamental rights of Texans to lawfully use and develop their private property

For Liberty, For Texas!

Jeremy D. Kitchen
President | Texas Policy Research Action (TPRA)