



Birddogging Questions About Data Centers

Water

- Data centers use large quantities of water for cooling. Would you support requiring that any project be required to use a closed-loop system?
- Many of our water systems are aging, and increased water demand for data center cooling will further strain those systems. What will you do to ensure that any upgrades or new infrastructure to our water systems is being paid for by big tech?
- The use of PFAS, a forever toxic chemical, is frequently used to help cool the equipment in data centers. How will you ensure that these chemicals are not simply discharged into our wastewater treatment facilities that lack the ability to treat these chemicals, and thereby simply discharged into the water that we use for drinking, fishing, and swimming?

Energy

- How would you ensure that big tech companies will be required to pay for their fair share of the generation and transmission costs needed to meet their demands?
- Renewable energy is the cheapest power available. How can big tech buyers ensure that new renewable energy is "additive," rather than just transferring existing clean energy away from residential and small business customers and leaving us with more costs?
- With the speculation and rush to build data centers, what will you do to ensure that we are building the electricity resources that are actually needed rather than over-building power plants and creating resources we have to cover as ratepayers?
- Frequently, data centers make use of diesel backup generators in the event of a power outage. Not only are the generators loud, but they also evade air quality standards. The EPA just closed a comment period on "minor source permits", which, as proposed, would allow the generators to run with virtually no pollution controls and without a public comment period. How would you protect our communities from unregulated air pollution from data centers?

Community Engagement

- Data centers have made use of non-disclosure agreements and hid the details of projects from communities. Would you support broader public participation in the process of siting future projects?
- The EPA just closed a comment period that would, in essence, keep communities from having the opportunity to raise concerns about pollution coming from sources like diesel generators at data centers. What would you do to help ensure that Iowans can be involved in the decisions that impact their community and health?
- Noise and high decibel levels from the cumulative impacts of operations, including generators and cooling equipment, are a growing concern for many communities. What noise mitigation and/or buffering methods would you propose?