

Data center projects and the steps to develop them responsibly

For data center development to be beneficial for Indiana it can't just benefit tech companies, it must be a win for the working class as well. Anytime that you can create employment in a community where people work and live is a win. Regulating these tech companies can ensure that these buildings are built safely and efficiently. When we build responsibly, we are securing the success of our communities and the union jobs that build Indiana from the ground up.

Data centers can also bring tax dollars to local communities and can potentially utilize vacant land that could otherwise be an eyesore. Most communities would be eager to allow tax dollars into their municipality to help make the area nicer and more attractive to locals and visitors. Data centers are more appealing than overgrown land that attracts trash from people dumping and possible homeless campsites. Data centers being built in both rural communities and in cities have great advantages. Staying local means there is more money circulating in local economies. Local workers would be taking their paychecks home and spending them where they live and work, rather than living out of a suitcase and taking their paychecks back home to another community.

A positive for the trades is that these data centers will require many man hours as these buildings are large and will utilize many skilled workers. Some of the trades that will benefit from building these data centers are operators, laborers, ironworkers, carpenters, pipefitters, sheet metal workers, and electricians to name a few. With signed agreements that 100% of the

work for these buildings would go to local union halls, you can be confident in knowing you are hiring a certified company that is insured and has skilled and knowledgeable workers.

Utilizing union labor can help reduce community concerns. Union workers are trained and ready for all things that come with building these big data/tech centers. Union trades use installation of closed loop water and onsite clean energy. Communities do not have to worry about the construction process polluting the water and/or polluting the air with the systems that the trades use. Data centers use large amounts of water for cooling. If this is done correctly with the trades this will have little impact on water tables in the local community.

The biggest advantage to utilizing union labor is the long-lasting benefit. Investing in local trades allows for money to go back into the apprenticeship programs which will create more jobs in communities. Another benefit is the experience that all the trades will gain in building these data centers. You cannot put a price on all the teaching moments and knowledge from which all the trades will benefit. This is especially true as these data centers are new, cutting edge and growing. Not too many trades will have the experience of building one of these so it will be learning and teaching time for everyone. There will be some trial and error but that is all part of the learning process of something new and upcoming.

Data centers use large amounts of energy, but most power companies make the developer pay for the electrical grid system improvements required to feed them. Rate increases for consumers are not a factor when power companies make the developer pay for improvements. Communities benefit from electrical grid upgrades paid for by the developer. They increase reliability in the electrical grid for the local community. Infrastructure improvements to roads and fiber optic networks are also a huge benefit.

Building these data centers can also attract other tech businesses which could create more trade opportunities. More trade opportunities create better paying jobs which create stronger local communities.