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Statement from Democratic Nominee Justin J. Pearson on Possible Memphis Data Center Moratorium

MEMPHIS, Tenn (Aug. 14, 2026) Memphis is at the center of the fight to protect communities from the harmful impacts of dirty data centers. The proposal before the Memphis City Council to pause further data center development is welcome news and an important step in the right direction.

Memphis needs a moratorium now. I urge the Memphis City Council to pass this ordinance and put a stop to further abuses by SpaceXAI and other corporations that pollute our communities while profiting from the pain residents are forced to endure.

I spoke out against SpaceXAI's dirty data centers from the outset and am running for Congress to help pass a national moratorium on new data centers until we know more about them and can establish regulations. I wholeheartedly support this action and thank Councilmembers J.B. Smiley and Jana Swearengen-Washington for bringing this issue before the Council.

SpaceXAI built a fourth data center right under our noses, without the knowledge or input of the communities that will bear the consequences. That is not how responsible development should happen.

Innovation that requires somebody else's sacrifice is not progress. Technology should serve people. People should never be sacrificed to serve technology.

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