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**Subject:** REQUEST: 12 month moratorium on water supply to Hyperscale data centers  
**Date:** Friday, May 15, 2026 9:04:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [Glwa and South Huron valley utility authority.docx](#)

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**Dear Board members and officials of the following public utility authorities:**

Van Buren Township Water and Sewer Commission,  
Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA),  
and South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA),

Please see the attached letter and confirm it was received and read.

Sincerely,  
Members of Stop The Data Center 48111

Dear Board members and officials of the following public utility authorities:  
Van Buren Township Water and Sewer Commission,  
Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)  
and South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA)

The state and municipal level tax incentives, coupled with proximity to the Great Lakes and Michigan's climate, have created a myriad of interest in Michigan land from data center developers. As the stewards of the delivery, collection, containment, treatment and waste management, of portions of Washtenaw and Wayne Counties' public water supply, you have an obligation to perform due diligence in protecting our public water supply, and that includes safeguarding community water at risk for extraordinary use by hyperscale data centers.

As you are aware, the Project Cannoli/Google hyper scale data center that is being proposed in Van Buren Township, will use open and closed loop cooling systems which will require 2-3.6 million gallons of water use per day, and this is just an estimate since the data center is not yet operational. According to the Panattoni request for information [RFI](#) from GLWA, the system has the capacity to supply the amount of water being requested however, placing more load on an aging infrastructure that is under assessment and reconstruction raises concerns for many residents.

The RFI states that Van Buren Township drinking water is primarily sourced from surface water on the Detroit River via the Fighting Island Intake, and that other sources of raw water can be extracted from the Belle Isle Intake if needed. Additionally, some of the treated water that services Van Buren Township is transported and stored at the South West Water Treatment Plant (SWWTP).

Currently, The Belle Isle Intake and SWWTP are both on the list of capital improvement projects for GLWA, and according to the projected project completion dates in the GLWA FY 2026-2030 report [pgs.162&186](#), the necessary improvements will not be completed until after 2030. The report also notes that the Belle Isle intake system is the very first step in the water treatment process and that a fully reliable and modern intake system is crucial in maintaining superior drinking water. The report goes on to identify ongoing erosion and sediment of the intake tunnels compromise water delivery to 3 of the 5 water treatment plants that serve communities and this is one of our back up intake systems.

Additionally, as the water gets closer to the township, at the Wick Road [pgs.136&217](#) and Ypsilanti pump stations [pgs.136&208](#), the GLWA CIP report cites that there is demonstrated need to update the water main between the two stations as a result of multiple water main breaks, and various elements within each station are in need of upgrades due to original equipment, including electrical systems that are in need of replacement. A [2023 report](#) performed by the American Society of Civil Engineers, revealed that Michigan received a C for wastewater management, D+ for drinking water and a D for storm water management and it

cited that this is the result of aging infrastructure and extreme weather conditions that are placing more stress on the infrastructure.

Adding the “high water demand” of Hyperscale data centers to “near end of life” infrastructure, could further stress the already compromised system, risking the potential for water contamination, the possibility of increased pressure leading to water main cracks/breaks, pump treatment plant overload, and the list goes on. Should any of these system failures occur in Van Buren Township or the surrounding communities, it could have a significant impact on public health and access to safe water. A recent example of the community impact of outdated water infrastructure can be found in [Southwest Detroit](#) in 2025. And although the cause has not yet been identified, the May 9th water main [break](#) in Auburn Hills, still provides insight on the community impact that occurs when infrastructure fails. We realize that water can still be provided as upgrades take place, but hastily approving access to “high water demand” hyperscale data center clusters before infrastructure repairs/updates are completed, is not in the best interest of this community or the state at large.

As a result of the above concerns, we are requesting that public utilities such as SHVUA and GLWA in addition to the Van Buren Township Sewer and Water Commission, enact a 12 month moratorium on water supply to Hyperscale data centers, including the Project Canoli/Google Hyperscale data center and any AI computing centers, to allow for more thorough assessment of the safety of an aging water infrastructure connected to clusters of high demand customers and appropriate intervention where needed. A moratorium would also provide time for a community town hall where the Van Buren township community and surrounding communities who stand to be affected, can have meaningful opportunity to engage with Google, along with the associated public utility companies. Lastly, a moratorium will allow more time for the development of comprehensive state regulations regarding clusters of hyperscale data center infrastructure, related to public utility use.

Sincerely,

Members of  
Stop The Data Center 48111