



Convention Resolution Submission

Title of Resolution

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE PROTECTION OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S PEOPLE, FAMILIES, PROPERTY RIGHTS, PRIVACY, AND RURAL CHARACTER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTERS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

Summary of Resolution

South Dakota's people, families, property rights, privacy, agricultural heritage, and rural character must take precedence over the "gold-rush" of large-scale data center and AI infrastructure development. This resolution sets priorities in first principles such as local control over land-use decisions, full transparency in agreements affecting communities, protection from AI-related harms such as deepfakes and surveillance, and opposition to eminent domain for private gain. Finally, it calls on all elected officials to ensure future economic development remains secondary to the protection of the state's people and way of life.

Whereas Statements

WHEREAS, the rights of individuals, including life, liberty, property, privacy, and the pursuit of happiness, come from God our Creator; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota's quality of life is defined by its people first: our strong families, our safe communities, the productivity of agriculture as an economic driver, our sacred private property rights, the local control of government, and rural values conserved through generations; and

WHEREAS, genuine economic development comes from the people of South Dakota and not the government, and further should not require South Dakotans to sacrifice the health of their families or communities or their God-given rights; and

WHEREAS, the growing citizen concern over the rapid expansion of large-scale data centers and artificial intelligence infrastructure raises significant questions regarding industrialization, strain on finite resource use, loss of fertile farmland, loss of privacy, lack of transparency, and usurpation of local governance; and

WHEREAS, hyperscale data centers are unique in their scale, resource use, speed of development, and further, Generative Artificial Intelligence with Agentic Artificial Intelligence has the potential for unprecedented disruption to the employment of South Dakotans; and

WHEREAS, parents have a fundamental right and responsibility to protect children from harmful content and technologies that threaten their safety and healthy development; and

WHEREAS, artificial intelligence increasingly enables fraud, impersonation, deepfakes, and pornographic content that undermines morality, personal dignity, and public trust; and

WHEREAS, surveillance technologies and mass collection of personal data threaten individual liberty and constitutional privacy protections; and

WHEREAS, local governments and citizens deserve full transparency regarding industrial-scale developments that may affect their communities, infrastructure, tax base, property values, or quality of life; and

WHEREAS, non-disclosure agreements and secrecy involving public officials and public resources undermine public trust and truthful outcomes;

Therefore Statements

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party affirms that the rights, health, safety, property values, natural beauty, agricultural heritage, and rural character of South Dakota shall take precedence over industrialization of our state through large-scale data center and AI infrastructure development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party supports policies protecting children and vulnerable individuals from AI-generated pornography, deepfakes, fraud, and other emerging digital harms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party supports the constitutional right to privacy and opposes mass surveillance and warrantless collection of personal information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party reaffirms its support for private property rights and opposes the use of eminent domain for private gain be it from data centers, AI, or related commercial development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party supports the right of citizens to make informed decisions about developments affecting their communities, property, and quality of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party supports strong local control over land-use decisions, with counties, municipalities, and townships retaining

Convention Resolution Submission (continued)

meaningful authority to notify citizens, review, regulate, approve, or reject large-scale industrial development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party supports full transparency regarding material agreements, infrastructure commitments, utility impacts, tax incentives, and water usage projections related to data center and AI development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party discourages non-disclosure agreements or secrecy measures that limit the ability of officials and citizens to evaluate developments significantly impacting the public interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party encourages innovation and technological advancement that respects constitutional liberties, family values, property rights, transparency, and local control; and

Conclusion

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Party calls upon elected officials at every level of government to ensure future technological and industrial development remains subordinate to the protection of South Dakota's people, families, communities, and way of life.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Resolution

Amy Harms, Chair, Lincoln County GOP

Confirmation

✓ I affirm I am an active, registered Republican in the State of South Dakota.

Your Name

Sara Steever

Email

steeversara@gmail.com

Phone

(605) 376-5470

Role / Title

Other

County

Lincoln

Organization