



SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPUBLICANS PROPOSE ELIMINATING DATA CENTER SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Madison – Representatives Shae Sortwell, Dean Kaufert, Lindee Brill, and Senator André Jacque are circulating legislation to eliminate Wisconsin’s sales and use tax exemption for qualified data centers, arguing that taxpayers should not be subsidizing large-scale data center development through the state tax code.

“I have openly opposed this exemption since it was signed into law back in 2023. Wisconsin’s tax code should not be giving special treatment to large corporations,” said Rep. Sortwell. “Data center developers are free to pursue these projects and invest in Wisconsin, but the state’s taxpayers should not be expected to subsidize their construction and operation. This bill is a straightforward step toward greater accountability and fairness in our tax code.”

The legislation comes amid growing debate over the costs and benefits and public skepticism of large-scale data center development in Wisconsin. Recent estimates from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau indicate that developers could realize more than \$1.5 billion in tax savings during construction of current data center projects, along with an estimated \$369 million annually once those projects are completed.

Rep. Sortwell is available for comment.

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