

An ORDINANCE implementing a 120-day moratorium on the county's processing of data center land use applications and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) land use applications for the purpose of developing long term policy and county code provisions related to such applications; including the direction of regulatory standards and enhanced public notification requirements.

WHEREAS due to the rapid emergence and expansion of data center developments and BESS facilities, it is necessary to review and amend the Jackson County Code to reflect thorough policy related to land use applications for data centers and BESS facilities; and,

WHEREAS such large-scale technology facilities present significant land use, infrastructure, environmental and public safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS the Legislature does recognize widespread community opposition and resident concerns related to large industrial facilities; and,

WHEREAS a number of state legislatures including the Missouri House are moving to implement guidelines on energy usage and water regulation from data centers and battery facilities; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kansas City, Missouri did pass Ordinance No. 251031 and Ordinance No. 260075 to address the impact of data centers on the community; and,

WHEREAS Jackson County's current Unified Development Code does not adequately address the unique characteristics and impacts of these facilities; and,

WHEREAS the Legislature recommends provisions of the Jackson County Unified Development Code, including enhancing public notice requirements for future applications involving large technology facilities to include: expanding the notification radius to property owners to be increased to twice the currently required distance under the code, and to increase the minimum threshold of property owners or residents to be notified to be no fewer than 100; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that a 120-day moratorium is hereby imposed on the acceptance, processing and approval of; Rezoning applications, Conditional Use Permits; Special Use Permits, Site Plans and Building Permits related to the construction, establishment or expansion of data centers or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities within Jackson County.