

Keith Madsen

I am opposed to granting a permit for the expansion of this data center. One reason is ecological. Multiply the emissions listed above by the hundreds (thousands?) of data centers being built, expanded or proposed across the country and we are going to see even more severe climate change than we now see burning some of the most beautiful areas of our state. How many people need to die, how many homes need to be destroyed, how many forests need to be burned down before we put the brakes on this madness?

A second reason I am opposed is because we need to slow down this uncontrolled, headlong rush into developing AI. Of course, AI has great potential. I understand that. I am a hospital chaplain and the potential for medicine and science is great. But its potential to destroy is also great. We have already seen how it can be used to produce fake videos and fake news. Whose values will direct how AI is used? Will it just result in more successful acts of war? Will it be used to destroy lives and reputations? AI has already been used in a robot that entered an athletic contest against humans. Will it destroy athletic competition among humans? Will it be so good at replacing human workers and artists that humans will be devoid of purpose and creativity? I have read INFINITY MACHINE, and the author argues such issues can be addressed, but can they be if we rush headlong into it without forethought? Some say, "Well, we need to beat the Chinese!" That's like two teenage drivers racing full speed down Wenatchee Avenue, not caring what can be damaged or who can be hurt or killed, as long as they "win the race"! Wenatchee and East Wenatchee need not be part of this madness. Let's slow it down and proceed like the future of civilization depends on it...because IT DOES!