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I am writing to express my strong opposition to Project Jupiter and respectfully urge the New Mexico Environment Department to thoroughly evaluate the environmental consequences of this proposal before issuing any permits or approvals. New Mexico is one of the most water-stressed states in the nation. We have endured years of drought, declining groundwater supplies, increasing temperatures, and growing competition for limited water resources. In a state where residents are constantly encouraged to conserve water, it is difficult to justify approving a project that could require millions of gallons of water annually to cool servers. Water is not an unlimited resource in New Mexico, and every large industrial user places additional strain on our communities, agriculture, wildlife, and future generations. Data centers are often promoted as clean because they do not produce visible smokestacks or heavy manufacturing waste. However, they carry a significant environmental footprint. These facilities require enormous amounts of electricity to operate around the clock, placing additional demand on an already stressed electrical grid. Unless that energy comes entirely from new renewable sources, increased demand can result in greater reliance on fossil fuel generation, leading to higher greenhouse gas emissions and poorer air quality. The environmental impacts also extend beyond water and electricity. Construction of a project of this scale requires substantial land disturbance, the removal of vegetation, increased stormwater runoff, habitat fragmentation, and significant construction traffic. Once operational, additional roads, transmission infrastructure, and utility expansions may be required, creating long-term environmental impacts that deserve careful consideration. I am also concerned about the cumulative effects of approving large industrial developments without fully considering what future expansion may look like.

If one data center is approved, it may encourage additional facilities to locate nearby, multiplying the demand on our limited water and energy resources. The Department should evaluate not only the immediate impacts of Project Jupiter but also the long-term cumulative impacts that could result from similar developments. While I recognize the importance of economic development and technological investment, those benefits should not outweigh the responsibility to protect New Mexico's natural resources. Economic growth should be sustainable and should not come at the expense of our water supply or environmental health. Any jobs created by the project should be weighed against the long-term costs borne by residents if groundwater levels decline, utility demands increase, or environmental degradation occurs. I respectfully request that the New Mexico Environment Department require a comprehensive environmental review that includes: A complete accounting of the project's anticipated annual water consumption. Identification of the water source and an analysis of potential impacts on local aquifers and existing water users. An assessment of projected energy demand and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Evaluation of impacts to wildlife habitat, vegetation, and nearby communities. Consideration of alternative cooling technologies that significantly reduce water consumption. A thorough analysis of cumulative environmental impacts if additional data centers are developed in the region. New Mexico's water is one of our most valuable and limited resources. Once depleted, it cannot easily be replaced. I urge the Department to place the long-term health of our environment and communities ahead of short-term economic interests and deny permits for Project Jupiter unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the project will not significantly impact our state's water resources or environmental quality.