



HELEN KERWIN



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 58

Dear Governor Abbott,

I am writing to share my perspective on the rapid growth of data centers and AI infrastructure in Texas, the critical role they will play in our state's future, and the importance of ensuring that this growth is paired with responsible planning and stewardship of our most vital resources, particularly water and electric power.

Texas must remain competitive in the global race for advanced technology, artificial intelligence, and energy security, especially as we compete with China and other hostile foreign nations. The AI revolution is advancing at a pace that exceeds the industrial and technological revolutions that came before it, and its impact on humanity will likely be even greater. Because of this, it is imperative that we get the foundational policies right from the beginning.

Water availability and grid reliability are not merely inputs for economic growth; they are strategic assets that must be protected so Texas remains strong, resilient, and competitive for future generations.

In my district, I am hearing increasing concern from constituents about the cumulative impact of large-scale data center development on local water resources and power availability. HD 58 is home to **the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant**, one of the most critical and reliable sources of baseload generation in our state. As a result, we are beginning to see large-scale data center development rapidly targeting nearby areas in search of dependable power and water access.

In fact, a hyperscale data center has already finalized plans to locate in Somervell County, and there are growing indications that additional projects may attempt to move forward quietly before communities have the opportunity to fully understand the potential impacts.

Similar concerns have also been raised by local officials and legislators in neighboring counties, underscoring that this issue is not isolated to a single community but is emerging across North Texas as data center development accelerates.

For that reason, I respectfully request your consideration of appointing an executive working group or committee composed of subject-matter experts and elected officials to evaluate the long-term impacts of large data center development in Texas. Such a working group could evaluate water consumption standards, grid interconnection impacts within ERCOT, and transparency requirements so local communities are properly informed when large-scale projects seek significant resource access. In particular, I believe there should be a clear pathway for mandatory public notice and meaningful citizen input when projects seek significant water usage or major power interconnection, whether through the TCEQ, PUCT, or any related state agencies.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to keeping Texas strong and competitive. I look forward to working with you to ensure that Texas approaches this rapidly evolving sector with both vision and responsibility.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerwin".