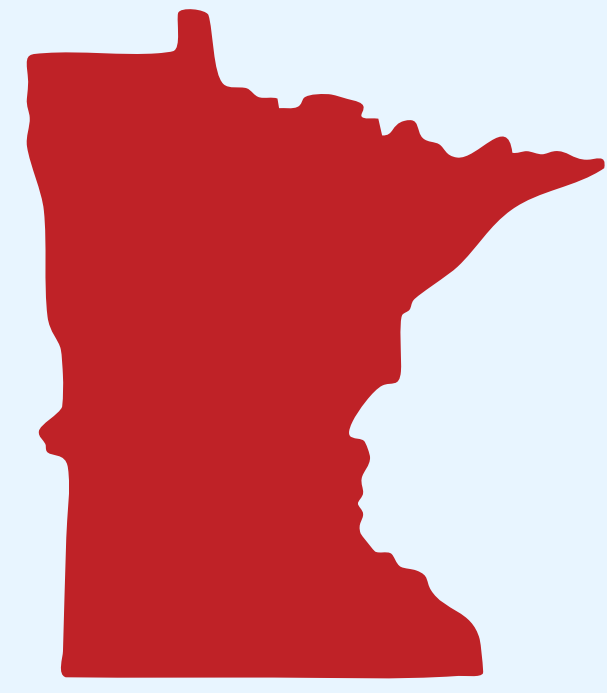
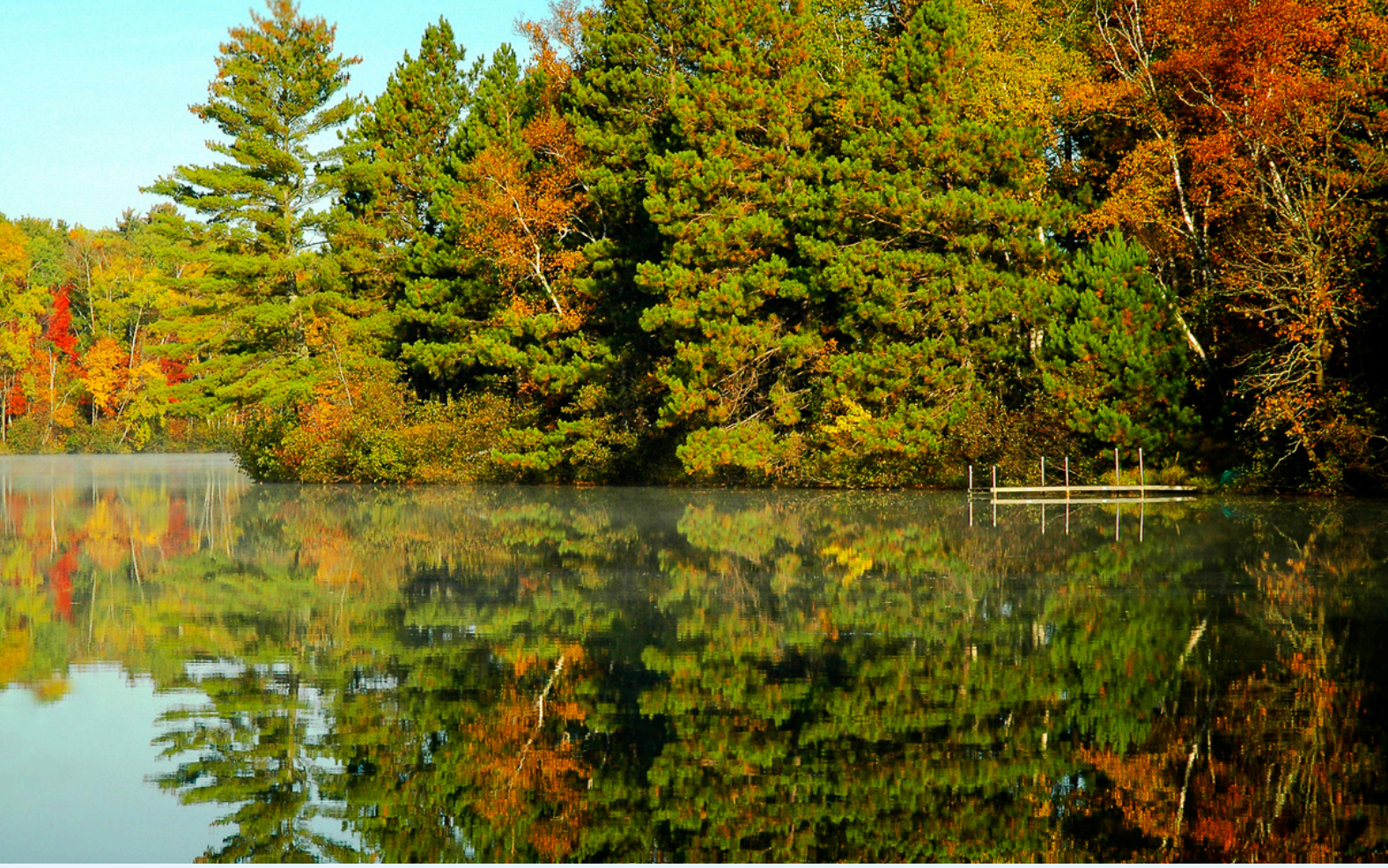


DATA CENTERS IN MINNESOTA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



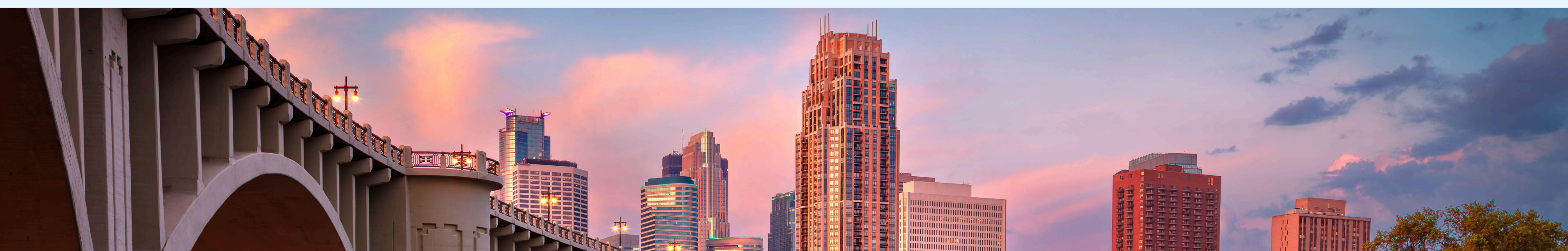
TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Minnesota policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. As a report from MPR News [notes](#), many residents and policymakers see data center “developments as economic opportunities that could generate property tax revenue, help pay for infrastructure improvements and create well-paying construction jobs ... Meta is already building a facility in Rosemount. More than a dozen other projects have been proposed around the state.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

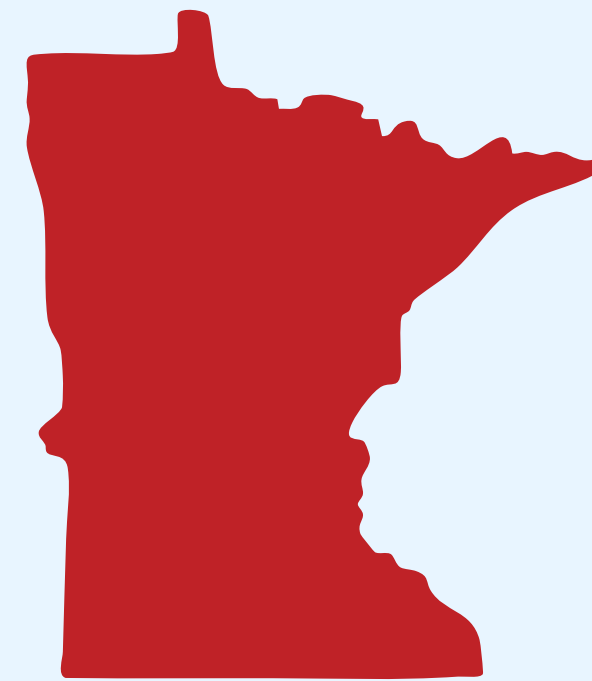
- * State lawmakers introduced [SF 4298 / HF 4888](#), which seeks to establish a strict state-level moratorium on the construction of new data centers. The proposal would enforce a temporary halt on local and state government agencies issuing conditional use permits for new facilities, pausing infrastructure expansion until the Public Utility Commission completes a comprehensive analysis regarding data center energy usage, water consumption, and localized environmental impacts.
- * In May, the Minneapolis City Council [voted to enact](#) a strict six-month moratorium on the permitting, establishment, or expansion of large-scale data centers. The ban included an exemption for downtown projects measuring under 350,000 square feet. According to Council Member Elliott Payne (D), “A six-month pause on data centers while we work to develop more permanent regulations for our whole city is a practical move to ensure we can have needed guardrails in place that protect our communities as this industry explodes.”
- * Introduced by State Senator Ann Johnson Stewart (D), [SF 3852](#) proposes that data centers and other large-scale industrial operations using more than 100 million gallons of water a year—or more than 50 percent of a city’s total authorized supply—can no longer “piggyback” on a municipality’s existing water permit. Instead, the bill would force these companies to apply for their own individual water appropriation permits through the state.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

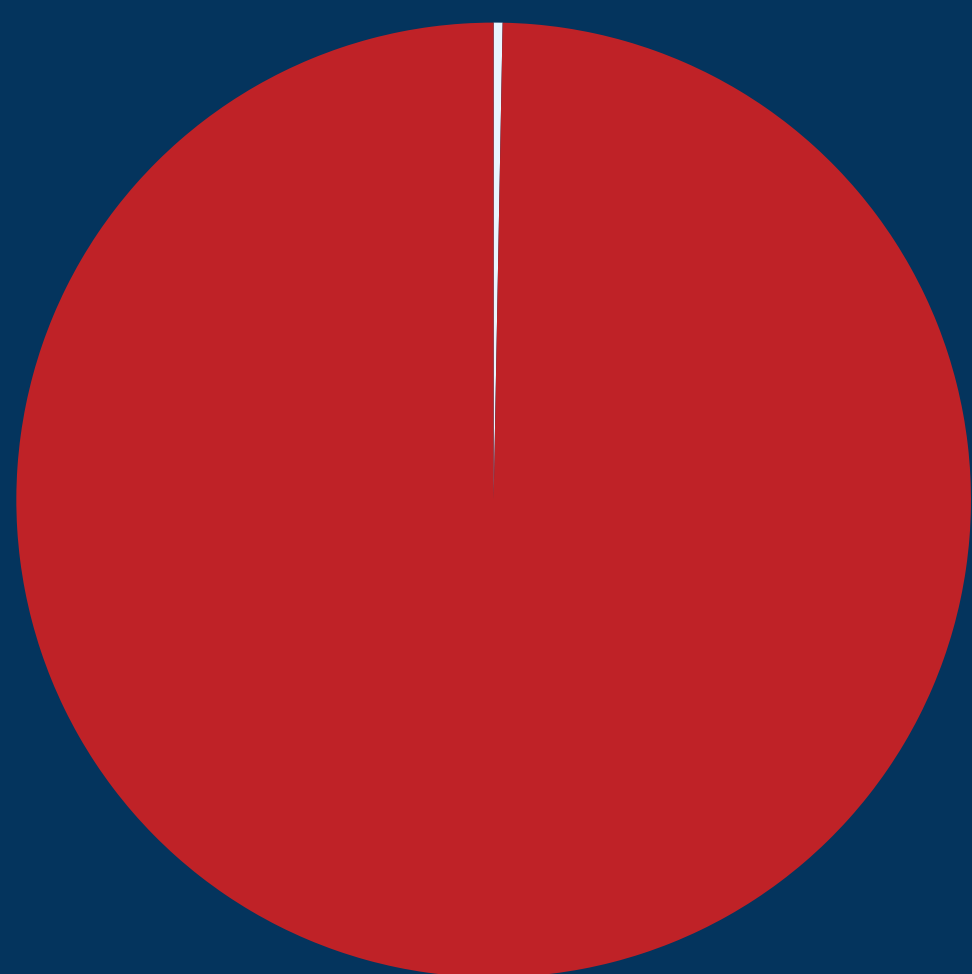
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, State Representative Peter Fischer (D) [claims](#), “We are seeing more and more situations where we’re having businesses coming into the state, or within the state, wanting to appropriate large uses of water,” and warns that data center operations could quickly deplete water supplies. These dire predictions are simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



MINNESOTA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

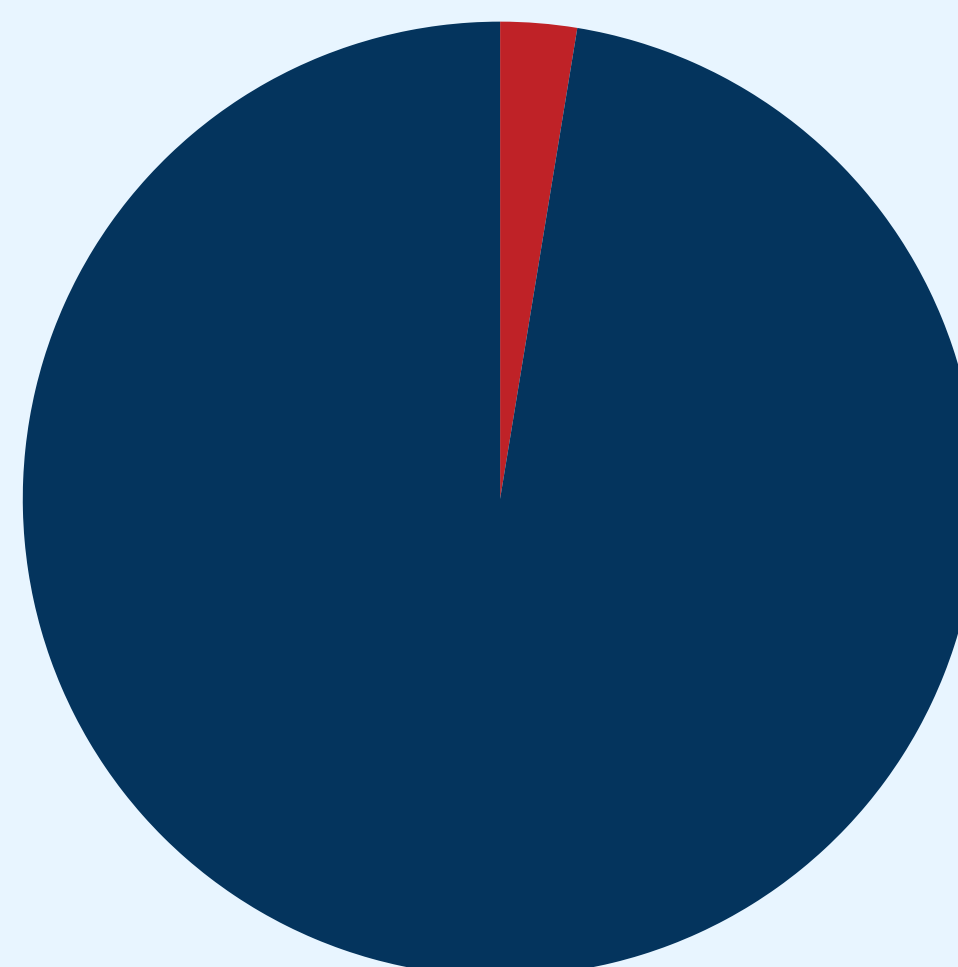
REALITY:

In Minnesota, data centers accounted for **0.3 percent** of all water consumption in 2025.

Brookings Institution data center water use estimates; Baxtel data center count; U.S. Geological Survey state-level aggregate water consumption figures.

MINNESOTA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Minnesota, data centers accounted for **2.6 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

Electric Choice data center power consumption figures; U.S. Energy Information Administration state-level net generation figures.

To learn more about the long-term projected water and electricity demands of data centers, visit the Q&A section at protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters

Taxpayers Protection Alliance
1101 14th St NW, Ste 500,
Washington, DC 20005
protectingtaxpayers.org

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