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October 16, 2025

The Honorable Josh Hawley
United States Senate
381 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hawley,

I saw that you recently shared a headline about energy rates in Missouri and suggested that the increase could be tied to data center development. While I appreciate your concern for Missouri consumers, that claim is misleading and—without the proper context—can unnecessarily alarm the very people we both serve.

As someone who spends every day here working to keep Missouri's energy policy balanced, I want to make sure you have the full picture. Earlier this year, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 4, legislation designed specifically to protect Missouri consumers from higher electric rates caused by large industrial users, including data centers.

This is one of the reasons our state remains competitive for investment while maintaining some of the most affordable, reliable electricity in the Midwest. We believe growth and consumer protection can coexist—and in Missouri, they do.

Thank you for your continued service and advocacy for our state. I would be happy to visit further and provide more details on SB 4's implementation and its positive impact on ratepayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy O'Laughlin".

Cindy O'Laughlin
President Pro Tempore - Missouri Senate