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# ROBERT BROOKS

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 59<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
Representative Rob Brooks  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

Good morning, Chairman O'Connor and members of the committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 140 relating to granting an exemption to the 12% rule in the city of Port Washington to build a data center. As you may know, planning is currently underway for a major data center development in Port Washington. This transformative project could span up to 1,900 acres and is expected to bring high-paying jobs and significant capital investment to both the local community and the State of Wisconsin.

As the demand for faster and more robust data processing continues to rise—driven in large part by advancements in Artificial Intelligence—the need for additional data centers is becoming increasingly urgent. With municipalities across the country actively competing to attract these high-tech developments, positioning Port Washington as a viable destination is both timely and strategic.

This legislation provides an exemption for Port Washington's Tax Incremental District (TID) No. 5 from the "12% rule," which limits the total equalized value of taxable property within new or amended TIDs—combined with the value increment of existing TIDs—to no more than 12% of a municipality's total equalized taxable property value. Granting this exemption enables the city to advance this substantial data and server center initiative while preserving long-term development flexibility.

Thank you for hearing my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



**DAN FEYEN**

STATE SENATOR

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To: The Assembly Committee on Ways and means  
From: Sen. Dan Feyen  
Re: Assembly Bill 140

Hello members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to hear testimony on AB 140.

Planning for a massive data center is underway in Port Washington. This generational development could potentially be as large as 1,900 acres and bring high paying jobs and large capital investments to the community and State of Wisconsin.

While Port Washington is not in my district, an investment of this magnitude is good for all Wisconsinites. Along with other data centers, this can be a launching pad for more investments and technological advancements right here in Wisconsin.

With the demand to process increasing amounts of data growing every day, especially given advances in Artificial Intelligence, we need data centers to keep the internet up to speed.

As demand for data centers grows across the country, competition also is growing among municipalities to attract data centers to invest in their communities. Wisconsin is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this growth, with our moderate climate, access to fresh water and reliable energy grid.

AB 140 creates an exemption for Port Washington's Tax Incremental District 5 from the 12% rule. This will allow them to continue towards the development of a massive data and server center while maintaining flexibility for future development and growth.

Thank you again for taking the time to hold a hearing on this bill.