

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Cynthia Lee Almond
President
Alabama Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 304260
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear President Almond,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
- 2.) If you have received any requests, please provide:
 - a. the number of nondisclosure requests received in total;
 - b. the names of the entities or individuals that requested the non-disclosure of information;
 - c. a copy of the nondisclosure or confidentiality request or agreement;
- 3.) Have you faced any other impediments to getting accurate and fulsome information regarding the requirements, costs, and burden of data centers from those proposing or operating them?
- 4.) Are you aware of other state or local public officials being asked or required to sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or to withhold information about energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts from being released to the public? If so, please provide details about these requests.
- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Nick Myers
Chair
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street., 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Chairman Myers,

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Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

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Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Doyle Webb
Chair
Arkansas Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 400
Little Rock, AR 72201-0400

Dear Chairman Webb,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Alice Reynolds
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Reynolds,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Eric Blank
Chair
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Chairman Blank,

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Thomas Wiehl
Interim Chair
Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Interim Chairman Wiehl,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
- 2.) If you have received any requests, please provide:
 - a. the number of nondisclosure requests received in total;
 - b. the names of the entities or individuals that requested the non-disclosure of information;
 - c. a copy of the nondisclosure or confidentiality request or agreement;
- 3.) Have you faced any other impediments to getting accurate and fulsome information regarding the requirements, costs, and burden of data centers from those proposing or operating them?
- 4.) Are you aware of other state or local public officials being asked or required to sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or to withhold information about energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts from being released to the public? If so, please provide details about these requests.
- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Dallas Winslow
Chair
Delaware Public Service Commission
861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Cannon Building, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Chairman Winslow,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Gabriella Passidomo Smith
Chair
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jason Shaw
Chair
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta GA, 30334-9052

Dear Chairman Shaw,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

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Richard Blumenthal
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jon Itomura
Chair
Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, #103
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Itomura,

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Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Edward Lodge
President
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
11331 W. Chinden Blvd. Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, ID 83714

Dear President Lodge,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Doug Scott
Chair
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Chairman Scott,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Andy Zay
Chair
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500E
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Chairman Zay,

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Sarah Martz
Chair
Iowa Utilities Commission
1375 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

Dear Chair Martz,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
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Richard Blumenthal
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Andrew French
Chair
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Chairperson French,

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Angie Hatton
Chair
Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

Dear Chair Hatton,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Brandon Frey
Executive Secretary
Louisiana Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

Dear Executive Secretary Frey,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Philip Bartlett
Chair
Maine Public Utilities Commission
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0018

Dear Chair Bartlett,

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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Kumar Barve
Chair
Maryland Public Service Commission
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Barve,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
- 2.) If you have received any requests, please provide:
 - a. the number of nondisclosure requests received in total;
 - b. the names of the entities or individuals that requested the non-disclosure of information;
 - c. a copy of the nondisclosure or confidentiality request or agreement;
- 3.) Have you faced any other impediments to getting accurate and fulsome information regarding the requirements, costs, and burden of data centers from those proposing or operating them?
- 4.) Are you aware of other state or local public officials being asked or required to sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or to withhold information about energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts from being released to the public? If so, please provide details about these requests.
- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jeremy McDiarmid
Chair
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
1 South Station, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chair McDiarmid,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

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Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Dan Scripps
Chair
Michigan Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Katie Sieben
Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Dear Chair Sieben,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Katherine Collier
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 1174
Jackson, MS 39215-1174

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Kayla Hahn
Chair
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Chair Hahn,

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jeff Welborn
President
Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601

Dear President Welborn,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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cc: Ron Johnson
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Greg Walklin
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Christopher J. Ellms Jr.
Acting Chair
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Dear Acting Chair Ellms,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Christine Guhl-Sadovy
President
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 S. Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Gabriel Aguilera
Chair
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

Dear Chair Aguilera,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

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- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Rory Christian
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Chair Christian,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

William Brawley
Chair
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

Dear Chairman Brawley,

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Randy Christmann
Chair
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND

Dear Chair Christmann,

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Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Kim David
Chair
Oklahoma Corporation Commission
P.O. Box 171
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-9918

Dear Chair David,

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Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Stephen DeFrank
Chair
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Delton Powers
Chair
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Chair Powers,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jerry Fenn
Chair
Public Service Commission of Utah
160 E. 300 South, Fourth Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Chair Fenn,

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Chairlotte Lane
Chair
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
P.O. Box 812
Chairleston, WV 25323

Dear Chair Lane,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
- 2.) If you have received any requests, please provide:
 - a. the number of nondisclosure requests received in total;
 - b. the names of the entities or individuals that requested the non-disclosure of information;
 - c. a copy of the nondisclosure or confidentiality request or agreement;
- 3.) Have you faced any other impediments to getting accurate and fulsome information regarding the requirements, costs, and burden of data centers from those proposing or operating them?
- 4.) Are you aware of other state or local public officials being asked or required to sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or to withhold information about energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts from being released to the public? If so, please provide details about these requests.
- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Summer Strand
Chair
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Dear Chairperson Strand,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Hayley Williamson
Chair
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
9075 W. Diablo Drive, Suite 250.
Las Vegas, NV 89148

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jenifer French
Chair
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair French,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Letha Tawney
Chair
Public Utility Commission of Oregon
P.O. Box 1088
Salem, OR 97308-1088

Dear Chair Tawney,

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Thomas J. Gleeson
Chair
Public Utility Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Dear Chairman Gleeson,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

John Espindola
Chair
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-3469

Dear Chair Espindola,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Ronald Gerwatowski
Chair
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Chairman Gerwatowski,

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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Chris Nelson
Chair
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Chairman Nelson,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

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with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
- 2.) If you have received any requests, please provide:
 - a. the number of nondisclosure requests received in total;
 - b. the names of the entities or individuals that requested the non-disclosure of information;
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- 3.) Have you faced any other impediments to getting accurate and fulsome information regarding the requirements, costs, and burden of data centers from those proposing or operating them?
- 4.) Are you aware of other state or local public officials being asked or required to sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or to withhold information about energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts from being released to the public? If so, please provide details about these requests.
- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
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COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

David Jones
Chair
Tennessee Public Utility Commission
502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Edward McNamara
Chair
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

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I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Kelsey Bagot
Chair
Virginia State Corporation Commission
P.O. Box 1197
Richmond, VA 23218-1197

Dear Chair Bagot,

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the impact of data centers used for artificial intelligence on American families, including skyrocketing electricity bills and increased risk of infrastructure failures. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to request documents and information regarding non-disclosure agreements or other restrictions on the public disclosure of energy usage, water access, infrastructure strain, or related environmental and economic effects, which may prevent the public from having full transparency over the impact of data centers on their communities.

Since the announcement of ChatGPT in November 2022, OpenAI, Microsoft, Meta, and others have rushed to build out larger and larger data centers to house the computing power required to train and operate artificial intelligence models. The power demands of these new data centers are staggering and unprecedented: for example, Meta’s new ‘Hyperion’ data centers will consume up to 5 gigawatts each¹: the equivalent of nearly four million homes.² National power consumption from data centers is projected to rise from around 5% to 12% within three years.³ In addition to increased market demand for power, dramatic new load from data centers has required

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Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

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Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

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Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Brian Rybarik
Chair
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Chair Rybarik,

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Sincerely,



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Ranking Member
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cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Mike Robinson
Chair
Wyoming Public Service Commission
2515 Warren Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Chair Robinson,

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³ Josh Saul et al, *AI Data Centers Are Sending Power Bills Soaring*, BLOOMBERG (Sept. 29, 2025), <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2025-ai-data-centers-electricity-prices/>;

Caroline O’Donovan, *Memories of deadly winter blackouts haunt the Texas data center boom*, WASH. POST (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/08/07/texas-law-data-centers-power-grid/>.

modernization and expanded grid capacity to accommodate their needs.⁴ Alongside new power requirements, data centers have become an increasing burden on water supplies, especially in rural locations, as they use water to cool servers and facilities.⁵

Consumers have shouldered the cost from new demand and modernization in terms of higher bills and increased risks of blackouts and other failures.⁶ Since January, families have seen the average price of household energy climb by ten percent.⁷ In regions near new data centers, residential retail energy rates are projected to further increase between 30% and 60% in the next five years.⁸ These sharp increases can have a devastating impact on consumers who must make significant sacrifices just to keep the lights on.⁹ Utilities and others in the industry have also warned about “power shortfalls and rolling outages,” especially during extreme weather events, as grid operators struggle to meet household needs against data center demands — making data center buildouts a public safety issue.¹⁰

Motivated by threats to their pocketbooks, safety, and quality-of-life, communities across the country—straddling political divides, regional differences, and walks-of-life—have fought back. Residents from Arizona to Missouri have opposed the buildout of data centers over energy and water use, environmental impacts, and to protect farmland, leading to blocked projects in 24 states.¹¹ For example, in Indiana a \$2 billion data center, along with other proposals, has been canceled after opposition from residents over energy and land use.¹² While in Oklahoma,

⁴ Harshit Agarwal, *Grid Modernization for Data Center and AI Loads: How the Grid is Gearing Up*, Yale Clean Energy Forum (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://cleanenergyforum.yale.edu/2025/11/12/grid-modernization-for-data-center-and-ai-loads-how-the-grid-is-gearing-up>.

⁵ Felicity Baringer, *Thirsty for power and water, AI-crunching data centers sprout across the West*, Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://andthewest.stanford.edu/2025/thirsty-for-power-and-water-ai-crunching-data-centers-sprout-across-the-west/>;

Michael Copley, *Data centers are booming. But there are big energy and environmental risks*, NPR (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/14/nx-s1-5565147/google-ai-data-centers-growth-environment-electricity>.

⁶ Katherin Blunt and Jennifer Hiller, *America’s Biggest Power Grid Operator Has an AI Problem: Too Many Data Centers*, WALL STREET J. (Jan. 12, 2026) <https://www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/power-grid-ai-data-centers-1235f296>; Eliza Martin and Ari Pescoe, *Extracting Profits from the Public: How Utility Ratepayers are Paying for Big Tech’s Power*, HARVARD L. SCH. ENV’T L. & ENERGY PROGRAM (Mar. 2025), <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Harvard-ELI-Extracting-Profits-from-the-Public.pdf>.

⁷ Dharna Noor, *Trump tariffs and green energy rollbacks push household electricity bills up 10%*, THE GUARDIAN (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/19/electricity-bills-increase-trump>.

⁸ Lalia Kearney and Tim McLaughlin, *Power costs soar in PJM region as data center demand spikes*, REUTERS (Aug. 7, 2025) <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/power-costs-soar-pjm-region-data-center-demand-spikes-2025-08-07/>.

⁹ Daniel Oberhaus, *How AI Could Be Raising Your Energy Bill*, HARVARD MAG. (June 11, 2025), <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2025/07/harvard-ai-increasing-energy-costs>.

¹⁰ Spencer Kimball and Gabirel Cortés, *Texas data center expansion raises blackout risk during extreme winter weather*, CNBC (Nov. 22, 2025), <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/11/22/texas-data-center-ai-ercot-blackout-power-outage.html>.

¹¹ *\$64 billion of data center projects have been blocked or delayed amid local opposition*, Data Center Watch (Mar. 2025), <https://www.datacenterwatch.org/report>.

¹² *QTS cans data center scheme in Porter County, Indiana, after protests*, DATA CENTER DYNAMICS (Sept. 10, 2025), <https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/qts-cans-data-center-scheme-in-porter-county-indiana-after-protests/>.

communities such as Sand Springs have mobilized over concerns about pollution and increased bills.¹³

Facing grassroots, community-based opposition, Big Tech companies and data center owners have sought to conceal the impact of their operations, while engaging in a public relations campaign to improve their image and lobbying to block efforts to hold them accountable for their costs. In general, the ownership arrangements and financial engineering behind data center construction have made the ownership and scale of data centers opaque — for example, Meta has turned to the asset management company Blue Owl Capital for its ‘Hyperion’ gigawatt data centers.¹⁴ Commercial real estate researchers have even called attention to a ‘fake data center’ problem, proposals that lack actual plans for sufficient power, water, and network connectivity.¹⁵ Big Tech has vigorously lobbied state governments, regulators, and utilities to socialize their costs and stop regulations that would ensure that consumers are not forced to pay for the demand and modernization they require.¹⁶

Also alarmingly, data center operators have reportedly used non-disclosure agreements to limit state and local officials’ ability to share information about the scale and impact of proposed data centers, even the name of the owner and partners involved. For example, in Arizona, Amazon sought to restrict a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from discussing details of a controversial \$3.6 billion data center.¹⁷ Researchers from the University of Mary Washington found that in Virginia localities where a data center could be identified, the vast majority (25 out of 31) of local governments are operating under an NDA, often broadly limiting disclosure of basic information such as the number of data centers planned and the size of those projects.¹⁸ Restrictions on the discussion and dissemination of such critical information are an impediment to residents’ ability to debate and decide whether data centers are worth the measurable impact on their communities and whether sufficient plans are in place to ensure they aren’t forced to bear the costs and consequences.

American families deserve full transparency over Big Tech’s expansion of data centers across the country and in their communities, and public officials should be able to hold operators accountable for their use of electricity and water. Regulators should actively provide the public

¹³ Protect Sand Springs Alliance (last accessed Mar. 3, 2026), <https://protectss.org/home>.

¹⁴ Press Release, Meta Announces Joint Venture with Funds Managed by Blue Owl Capital to Develop Hyperion Data Center, Meta (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://investor.atmeta.com/investor-news/press-release-details/2025/Meta-Announces-Joint-Venture-with-Funds-Managed-by-Blue-Owl-Capital-to-Develop-Hyperion-Data-Center/default.aspx>.

¹⁵ THE FUTURE OF CRE SUSTAINABILITY PODCAST, *Commercial Real Estate Has a Fake Data Center Problem* (YouTube, June 19, 2025), <https://www.omnidian.com/insights/cre-and-data-centers/>.

¹⁶ Martin and Pesco, *supra*, note 6.

¹⁷ Natalie Kanz, *How AI NDAs keep AI data center details hidden from Americans*, NBC NEWS (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/data-center-ai-google-amazon-nda-non-disclosure-agreement-colossus-rca236423>.

¹⁸ Eric Bonds and Viktor Newby, *Data centers, non-disclosure agreements and democracy*, VIRGINIA MERCURY (Apr. 30, 2025), <https://virginiamercury.com/2025/04/30/data-centers-non-disclosure-agreements-and-democracy/>.

with any non-disclosure agreements requested or required by data center operators without delay. Given the significant and rising utility bills facing American households, I request answers to the following questions and produce the following documents by April 20, 2026:

- 1.) Have you received any requests from entities proposing or operating data centers to restrict information about the amount of energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts, including non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality requests?
- 2.) If you have received any requests, please provide:
 - a. the number of nondisclosure requests received in total;
 - b. the names of the entities or individuals that requested the non-disclosure of information;
 - c. a copy of the nondisclosure or confidentiality request or agreement;
- 3.) Have you faced any other impediments to getting accurate and fulsome information regarding the requirements, costs, and burden of data centers from those proposing or operating them?
- 4.) Are you aware of other state or local public officials being asked or required to sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or to withhold information about energy and water use, required changes to the power grid or water infrastructure, or other environmental impacts from being released to the public? If so, please provide details about these requests.
- 5.) Will you commit to releasing to the public any nondisclosure agreements regarding datacenter proposals?

I welcome any further information you would like to provide the Subcommittee regarding economic, environmental, or infrastructure burdens that such data centers have created on your electricity grid and other utilities or infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations