Comment by Pamela Haines, Philadelphia

Re: Docket No. M-2025-3054271

We have seen the state jump feet first into what they perceived as energy-relted business opportunities many times in recent memory. Yet the state never did a single study on the potential impacts of fracking until more than 15 years after the first well was fracked. Behind every one of these businesses is the fossil fuel industry that wants to continue growing even as the planet burns. I object to our government's efforts to enable it.

I support the following statement from the Better Path Coalition and No False Climate Solutions PA. "The problems being addressed in PUC's tentative order are largely manufactured ones resulting from the state's rush to get into the data center business before the boom goes bust. As is too often the case, the public is only engaged after the big decisions are made. Our first opportunity to comment comes when the only things left to decide are how to deal with the new project/business/industry. At that point, advancement of the thing under consideration is taken to be an inevitability when it really isn't. Therefore, we feel it is important to state up front that we oppose the approval of hyperscale data centers in Pennsylvania based on many well-documented concerns about their environmental, health, safety, climate, quality of life, economic, and ethical impacts that scattershot regulations across agencies, in this case tariffs, cannot address. Our regulatory agencies should be our advocates, using their expertise to stop the state from creating preventable problems rather than resigning themselves to managing them."

Data centers and cryptominig are an enormous issue, with severe potential negative effects for local communities and every individual utility user. They need careful consideration, with input from all stakeholders.

According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, "The exact trajectory of future electricity use by data centers is unknown due to 1) improvements in AI system efficiency; 2) the unpredictability of demand for AI services; and 3) limits in manufacturing production capacity of AI chips, servers, and associated infrastructure." The PUC is operating in the dark as it attempts to establish a tariff.

According to Carnegie Mellon and its research partners, "Power sector emissions could increase 30% compared to scenarios without data center growth, reaching 275 million metric tonnes of CO2 annually by 2030. That matches the entire annual carbon output of France."

Throughout the discussion of the tentative order, the PUC's disposition fell short of imposing the most stringent requirements on large load customers. Therefore, the tentative order is weak and inadequate.

Please act on the need for full consideration of all the costs, as well as the much touted potential benefits.