

I do not want large data centers built in Pennsylvania. They place heavy strain on land, water, and power systems and risk permanent environmental damage while providing limited benefit to local communities. If they are allowed, they must pay more than they generate—at least 50% upfront before construction. There should be a per-gallon tax on all water used and a binding requirement for local labor. If local labor is not used, data centers must fund training programs for future local workers at their own expense.

If the Commission allows data centers to proceed despite these concerns, then they must be required to pay significantly more than they currently propose. This should include an upfront payment equal to at least 50% more than the projected value of what they intend to generate, paid before construction begins, not after profits are made. There must also be a per-gallon tax on all water used, reflecting the true cost of extraction, treatment, and long-term environmental impact.

Additionally, there must be a binding guarantee of local labor usage. If local workers are not used, the data center operators should be required to pay into a dedicated fund to train and certify future local workers for these jobs. That fund must be paid for entirely by the data centers, not taxpayers. If Pennsylvania bears the burden, Pennsylvania residents must receive the benefit.

We are approaching this proposal with cautious pragmatism. While we understand the potential benefits of a new data center, we are concerned about the limited number of permanent jobs it will generate for our community. To ensure that our region truly benefits, we are requesting a firm guarantee: if the project fails to deliver the promised employment opportunities, the company must compensate the community financially.

Specifically, the compensation should reflect the tax equivalent of [X] permanent jobs over a 20-year period. This measure ensures that our local economy is protected and that the project contributes meaningfully to the livelihoods of our residents. In addition, we expect a strong commitment to employing local labor wherever feasible, with funds set aside if local hires are not utilized.

This approach balances economic development with accountability, ensuring that any infrastructure investment benefits the community both immediately and sustainably.