

My name is Laura Horowitz. I am 71 years old, white, female, and I live in the city of Pittsburgh. I support the PUC in finalizing a strong Model Large Load Tariff to make sure data centers pay their fair share and don't pass on their energy costs to regular people like me.

We are in a climate crisis, and I fear the power of big tech companies and their allies in public office. We must prioritize the health and safety of our air, land, and water over the profit making ambitions of data centers. I expect to pay for what I buy and not for what my neighbors buy. The costs to utilities of the demand from tech is absolutely not a burden people should bear. Large load customers/AI data centers should conduct and pay for their own interconnection studies, which help make sure infrastructure buildout to serve a large load/ AI data center is done efficiently and in a way that minimizes costs. Large loads/AI data centers must be required to pay for the costs of remediating and cleaning up their site after closing down. Any costs related to the buildout of infrastructure needed to serve a new large load/AI data center should be fully covered by that large load customer/AI data center, or covered in part if they can prove that other customers also benefit.

The PUC must remember that it is meant to be focused on **the public**. Requiring responsible use of resources by large load users is in your hands. Data centers should be responsible for generating their own power so that the public does not go without. Green energy is affordable and available, and they should commit to that. Large load customers/AI data centers should be required to bring their own clean energy, especially if they want to qualify for incentives or lower rates. Recent estimates have found that some gas-powered data centers could emit more greenhouse gases than entire countries, severely worsening the environment and climate crisis. Clean energy is quicker to build and deploy, avoiding concerns of "stranded assets" that are much more likely with the decades-long lifespan of gas-fired power plants. Energy efficiency, grid enhancing technologies, and advanced transmission technologies can also reduce a large load/AI data center's strain on the grid. And if tech demands and uses solar, the solar industry will grow and we will all benefit by reduced dependence on fossil fuels.

Data centers must be responsible citizens, and the PUC must see that they are, for the good of the people of this state and the planet we share.