

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission**  
**Docket Number M-2025-3054271 – Tentative Order and Large Load Model Tariff**

I live in Blawnox with my family and I work in 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 need to hold large load customers responsible for their own electricity usage and not let AI datacenters get whatever they want in PA.

AI data centers are driving up electricity costs for everyone, and especially low-income residents, through increased demand. Pennsylvania residents and small businesses are already paying record-high electricity rates. Regular customers should not have to pay for new AI data centers to come into this state, though utility bills are being driven up by massive tech companies that are not paying their fair share. 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. We need and would like to see more transparency with AI data centers ownership, site selection, usage rates for water and electricity, and have them pay for the GHG emissions that come from their operations.

AI data centers should be required to bring their own new, clean energy to access incentives and lower charges. The PUC's mission includes protecting the public interest, including my family's health and the PA environment. 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. Clean energy jobs already employ over five times more people in the US than do coal, oil, and natural gas combined. We need more jobs like this as we build more resilient infrastructure.

As data centers expand across Pennsylvania—from projects tied to communities like Springdale and beyond—they are quickly becoming some of the most energy-intensive pieces of infrastructure in the state. These facilities run 24/7, drawing massive amounts of electricity that can strain local grids, influence utility pricing, and shape long-term energy investments. Without clear accountability, the costs of powering them—both financial and environmental—can be shifted onto residents and small businesses through higher rates or increased reliance on fossil fuel generation (this impact on air quality and pollution literally kills people). This is particularly important in a state still navigating its legacy energy mix and economic transition. Holding data centers accountable for their energy use means ensuring transparency, fair cost allocation, and alignment with Pennsylvania's broader goals around grid resilience, affordability, and decarbonization. It also creates an opportunity to require these facilities to invest in renewable energy, efficiency, and community benefits—so that their presence strengthens, rather than burdens, the regions where they operate.

Robert Sroufe  
[robertsroufe@gmail.com](mailto:robertsroufe@gmail.com)