

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2025

RE: No exemptions or erosions of federal or state regulation of AI

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of more than 200 organizations and the millions of members we represent, **we respectfully urge you to oppose any policy that would erode or preempt federal or state regulation of the artificial intelligence (AI) industry, including data centers.**

Earlier this year, the Senate decisively and bipartisanly rejected a provision in the House-passed reconciliation bill which would have instated a 10-year moratorium on state authority to regulate the AI industry. We implore you to show the same leadership by opposing any effort by any Member of Congress or the Trump Administration to weaken or preempt state and federal regulation of AI — including in must-pass legislation such as the National Defense Authorization Act, or in stand-alone bills, such as Senator Cruz’s recently introduced SANDBOX Act, which would allow AI companies to bypass federal regulation for up to 10 years, with further potential for permanent regulation repeal or amendment.

Any waiver or moratorium on state and federal regulatory authority would be a sweeping concession to large technology corporations at the expense of addressing the climate crisis, environmental justice and protection, public health, workers’ rights, and children’s safety, all while raising energy prices and threatening the stability of the electric grid. At a time of rapid growth in the AI industry and [rising public concern](#) about AI data centers, it would be extraordinarily irresponsible to preempt state and federal regulatory authority and allow the industry to grow unchecked — community safety and health are at stake.

Without intervention, global power demand from data centers is projected to rise by [50% by 2027 — and up to 165% by 2030](#) — much of it fueled by coal, oil, and gas, as well as other dirty energy sources like biomass and nuclear. Meaningful federal and state regulation of the AI industry is urgently needed. If not addressed appropriately, this surge in AI data centers — amid extreme weather, aging infrastructure, and ongoing energy policy challenges driven by climate change and inequality — will increase:

- **Climate and Environmental Damage:** AI data centers' soaring energy demand is fueling over [10,800 MW](#) of new fossil fuel capacity, locking in emissions, delaying the clean energy transition, and threatening climate goals. From chip manufacturing to model training, the AI lifecycle generates significant pollution, while expanding infrastructure drives habitat loss and endangers biodiversity. Without urgent action, AI alone could consume [44%](#) of the U.S. power sector's remaining allowable emissions under the U.S.'s 2035 climate targets, forcing other sectors to cut 60% more to stay on track.
- **Environmental Injustice and Public Health Harms:** The rapid growth of AI data centers places a high cost on low-income and marginalized communities. It increases pollution and perpetuates pollution hotspots, consumes immense amounts of fresh water, and makes life even less affordable for those already struggling to make ends meet. Training a single AI model can match the pollution of [10,000](#) cross-country car trips, with fine particulate matter posing serious health risks for low-income communities. By 2030, AI-driven data centers could cause [1,300](#) premature deaths annually and \$20 billion in U.S. health costs from cancers, asthma, and lost productivity. At the same time, data centers provide questionable economic benefit: they [create few permanent jobs](#); [deepen economic inequality](#); and their heavy demand on local power grids delays or blocks more sustainable development, including [housing](#).
- **Energy Unaffordability:** The escalating deployment of AI data centers significantly increases electricity demand, necessitating substantial and costly upgrades to America's aging grid infrastructure. These [costs](#) are passed on to ratepayers by utilities, resulting in higher electricity prices for entire communities. For example, electricity bills are on track to rise an average of 8% nationwide by [2030](#) and as much as 25% in places like Virginia because of data centers.
- **Reduced Power Quality and Availability:** Utilities are increasingly prioritizing electricity for data centers over other consumers, a shift that threatens to destabilize local grids and raises the risk of blackouts, electrical fires, and damage to household appliances. By [2026](#), data centers, including those powering AI, are projected to consume around 1,050 terawatt-hours of electricity annually — equivalent to the entire consumption of Germany.
- **Water Inaccessibility:** AI data centers consume enormous amounts of fresh water to cool their servers. For instance, generating a single 100-word email with OpenAI's GPT-4 requires roughly the equivalent of a [16.9-ounce water bottle](#). This strain is especially concerning as developers continue to site large data centers in drought-prone regions such as Arizona and Nevada, where water is already scarce and vulnerability to climate stress is already increasing.

It is essential that federal and state governments retain uncompromised authority to regulate the AI industry to protect ratepayers, communities, and the environment, and to effectively respond

to emerging challenges. We once again urge you to reject any and all legislation or Trump Administration initiative that hampers this authority.

Thank you for your consideration,

Center for Biological Diversity
Friends of the Earth US
198 methods
350 Bay Area Action
350 Hawaii
350 Lake Norman
350 Mass
350 Triangle
350.org
7 Directions of Service
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
Amazon Employees for Climate Justice
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Athena Coalition
Backbone Campaign
Bank Climate Advocates
Between the Waters
Beyond Extreme Energy
Beyond Nuclear
BFUU Social Justice Committee
Biofuelwatch
Black Voters Matter Fund
Blacks in Green
Bold Alliance
Brighter Green
California Communities Against Toxics
Campaign for Renewable Energy
CARMA
Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Oil & Gas Organizing
Center for Progressive Reform
Change the Chamber
Check My Ads Institute
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Chispa, a Program of LCV
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens Awareness Network

Clean Air Council
Clean Energy Action
Clean Water Action
Clean Water for North Carolina
Climate Action California
Climate Families NYC
Climate Generation
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Justice Alliance
Climate Reality Project, NOVA Chapter
CODEPINK Bay Area
Color Of Change
Columbia Riverkeeper
Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment, Rensselaer NY
Community Power
Community Water Justice
Concern Citizens of Northampton County
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
Consumer Federation of America
Corporate Ethics International
Courage California
Data & Society
DC Environmental Network
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Demand Progress
Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida
Democrats Abroad Environment & Climate Crisis Council
DNC Council on the Environment and Climate Crisis
Dogwood Alliance
Don't Waste Arizona
Dream Tank
Earth Charter Indiana
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice Action
EcoAction Committee of the Green Party of the United States
Ecological Options Network
Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEEECHO)
Empower Our Future
Endangered Species Coalition
Energy Equity Project, a fiscally sponsored project of the Tides Center
Energy Justice Network
Environmental Justice Caucus of Michigan
Families for a Livable Climate
Family Farm Defenders
Flow Water Advocates

Food & Water Watch
Food for Maine's Future
Forward Together East Point
FracTracker Alliance
Freshwater Future
Friends Acting for Climate Today (FACT)
Friends of Blue Ridge Mountains
Gen-Z for Change
Georgia Coalition Against Cryptomining
Georgia Conservation Voters
Georgia ForestWatch
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
Gilmer County GA Citizens Against Cryptomining
Green America
Green Education and Legal Fund
GreenFaith
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Harrington Investments, Inc.
HEAL Utah
Healthy Ocean Coalition
Hip Hop Caucus
HobokenRESIST! MoveOn.org
Honor the Earth
Illinois Environmental Council
Income Movement
Indigenous Environmental Network
Inland Ocean Coalition
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Intheshadowofthewolf
Jewish Climate Action Network
Kairos Action
Kentucky Conservation Committee
League of Conservation Voters
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Long Beach Environmental Alliance
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
Lower Cape Indivisible
Maine Climate Action Now
Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ)
Massachusetts Avenue Project, Inc.
MediaJustice
Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP)

Michigan Climate Action Network (MiCAN)
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center of Midcoast Friends Meeting
Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Moms Clean Air Force
Montana Environmental Information Center
Mothers Out Front
MoveOn.org HobokenRESIST!
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
National Coalition Against Cryptomining
NC Climate Justice Collective
NC Environmental Justice Network
NC WARN
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
Next 100 Coalition
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
North American Water Office
Northern Virginia Bird Alliance
Northwest Environmental Advocates
NTEN
NTS Group
Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Nuclear Watch South
Ocean Conservation Research
Ohio Nuclear Free Network
Oregon Conservancy Foundation
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Organic Consumers Association
Oxfam America
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Partnership for Southern Equity
People's Action Institute
People's Tech Project
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast
Port Arthur Community Action Network(PACAN)
Portland Raging Grannies
Preserve Montgomery County VA
PSR Arizona
Putnam Progressives
Renewable Energy Owners Coalition of America
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)

Resources for Organizing and Social Change
RESTORE: The North Woods
Richmond County Coalition for Justice & Black Empowerment
Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
River Guardian Foundation
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
RootsAction
Rural Organizing
Safe Energy Rights Group
Salt Air at Cider Hill Farm
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
Save Pleasant Valley
SEE (Social Eco Education)
Snake River Alliance
Solutionary Rail
South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc
South Shore Audubon Society
South Texas environmental justice Network
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Stand.earth
The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York
The Climate Center
The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
The Enviro Show
The Piedmont Environmental Council
The Rachel Carson Council
The RedTailed Hawk Collective
The Tech Oversight Project
Third Act
Unitarian Universalist Church Green Team
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Unite North Metro Denver
Uranium Watch
Urban Core Collective
USBIG
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Wild Cumberland
Wyoming Outdoor Council