

Data Center Templates to Write Your Public Servant



Julie Honeycutt

August 5, 2026

Data Center Template: Developmental Oversight Letter

August 5, 2026

The Honorable [Public Official's Name]

[Title]

[Office Address]

Re: Request for Transparency, Public Consent, and Responsible Oversight of Large-Scale Data Center Development

Dear [Title and Last Name],

I am writing as a concerned constituent to respectfully request greater transparency, public engagement, and responsible oversight regarding the unprecedented expansion of large-scale data centers throughout our communities.

Personal Story (Please Personalize):

[Insert your personal story here. Explain how a proposed or existing data center has affected—or may affect—your family, neighborhood, property, business, farm, school, church, or community. This personal experience should illustrate why this issue matters to you and why thoughtful planning is needed.]

Artificial intelligence and cloud computing have undoubtedly created new opportunities, and I recognize that some data center development may be necessary to support critical services, innovation, research, healthcare, education, and national security. However, the current pace, scale, and concentration of proposed facilities raise significant concerns. The issue is not whether data centers should exist—it is whether communities **need** that many or are being given the opportunity to understand, evaluate, and **consent** to developments that may permanently alter the places they call home.

Many residents first learn of these projects only after substantial decisions have already been made. Communities deserve meaningful notice, transparent public hearings, and access to understandable information before projects are approved.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you support a temporary moratorium on approvals for new large-scale data center developments until comprehensive statewide and/or federal guidelines can be established. This pause would allow policymakers, experts, utilities, environmental scientists, public health professionals, and community members to work together to create a balanced regulatory framework that protects both technological progress and the public interest.

As part of that process, I urge the creation of a comprehensive **Community Proximity Impact Index** that objectively evaluates the cumulative effects of proposed data centers before permits or incentives are granted. This assessment should include, at a minimum:

- Water availability and long-term water consumption, particularly during periods of drought

- We know that data centers can be built without the use of water. What is being done to further incentivize builders to go this route?
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- Effects on electricity rates for residential, agricultural, and small-business customers
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- Loss of agricultural land and open space
- Visual impacts on scenic landscapes, rural character, historic areas, and community skylines
- Long-term sustainability, including whether future technological advances could allow computing capacity to be delivered through smaller, more efficient, or more distributed facilities

I respectfully request that any environmental, economic, or public health studies required as part of the approval process be conducted by independent third parties with no financial interest in the outcome of the project. These studies should be made publicly available well before any hearings or votes so that residents have sufficient time to review the findings and provide informed input.

Technology evolves rapidly. Facilities designed today may become significantly more compact and efficient in the years ahead. Communities should not be asked to permanently sacrifice large areas of land, natural beauty, or infrastructure capacity without careful consideration of future technological developments and alternative approaches.

I also respectfully request complete transparency regarding financial relationships between elected officials and companies seeking approvals, incentives, tax abatements, grants, PILOTs, infrastructure assistance, or other public benefits related to data center development. Public confidence depends upon the appearance and reality of impartial decision-making.

To help preserve that confidence, I respectfully ask that elected officials who have accepted campaign contributions from companies or organizations with pending data center interests voluntarily return those contributions or otherwise recuse themselves from decisions in which a reasonable person could perceive a conflict of interest. Even

where contributions are lawful, taking additional steps to avoid the appearance of undue influence can strengthen public trust in the decision-making process.

Finally, I ask that future decisions regarding large-scale data center development prioritize transparency, scientific evidence, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and meaningful community participation. Economic development should not come at the expense of informed public consent or the long-term health and well-being of our communities.

I respectfully ask you to support legislation and policies that:

- Establish a temporary moratorium on approvals for new large-scale data center developments until comprehensive regulatory standards are adopted
- Require independent Community Proximity Impact Index evaluations before project approval
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- Require cumulative impact analyses rather than evaluating projects in isolation
- Ensure full transparency regarding incentives, tax abatements, utility agreements, and public expenditures
- Promote strong ethics and conflict-of-interest safeguards to maintain public confidence in governmental decision-making
- Balance technological innovation with responsible stewardship of our natural resources, infrastructure, and communities

Our communities deserve thoughtful planning that protects both innovation and the public interest. I appreciate your service and respectfully ask for your leadership in ensuring that decisions made today reflect the long-term interests of current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

**Data Center
Template:
Developmental
Oversight
Comissioner
Letter**

August 5, 2026

Commissioner [Public Official's Name]

[Title]

[Office Address]

Re: Request for Transparency, Public Consent, and Responsible Oversight of Large-Scale Data Center Development

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Counties often have authority over infrastructure, roads, drainage, and local planning, though powers vary by state.

Additional requests for the Commissioner:

- Delay county approvals until independent impact studies are completed.
- Require traffic studies for heavy construction equipment.
- Evaluate road maintenance costs that may ultimately be borne by taxpayers.
- Assess impacts on county emergency services.
- Consider cumulative impacts when multiple projects are proposed in the same region.
- Ensure meaningful public participation before county incentives are granted.

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[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

**Data Center
Template:
Developmental
Oversight
Mayor or
City Council
Member
Letter**

August 5, 2026

Mayor or Councilman/Councilwoman [Public Official's Name]

[Title]

[Office Address]

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Cities frequently make zoning decisions and negotiate development agreements.

Additional requests for Mayor/Councilmen and Councilwomen:

- Require enhanced public notice before zoning changes.
- Require neighborhood meetings prior to project approval.
- Develop design standards to reduce visual impacts.
- Require landscaping and noise mitigation.
- Require independent noise monitoring after construction.
- Require public disclosure of all development agreements and incentive packages.
- Encourage adaptive reuse of existing industrial sites before approving development on undeveloped land.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

**Data Center
Template:
Developmental
Oversight
Governor
Letter**

August 5, 2026

Governor [Public Official's Name]

[Title]

[Office Address]

Re: Request for Transparency, Public Consent, and Responsible Oversight of Large-Scale Data Center Development

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Governors oversee state agencies, emergency management, environmental permitting (through state agencies), and statewide economic development.

Additional requests for Governor:

- Issue an executive order temporarily pausing state approvals for new hyperscale data center projects while statewide siting guidelines are developed, where legally permissible.
- Establish a bipartisan Data Center Advisory Commission composed of utilities, local governments, environmental scientists, agricultural experts, economists, public health professionals, industry representatives, and citizens.
- Require state agencies to study cumulative impacts rather than evaluating projects individually.
- Develop statewide best practices for setbacks from neighborhoods, schools, churches, hospitals, farms, and waterways.
- Ensure state incentive programs include measurable public benefits and accountability.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

**Data Center
Template:
Developmental
Oversight
Member
of Congress
Letter**

August 5, 2026

Congressman/Congresswoman [Public Official's Name]

[Title]

[Office Address]

Re: Request for Transparency, Public Consent, and Responsible Oversight of Large-Scale Data Center Development

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Congress can establish national standards, require federal studies, increase transparency, regulate interstate issues, and oversee federal agencies.

Additional requests for Members of Congress:

- Direct the appropriate federal agencies (such as the Departments of Energy, Interior, Agriculture, EPA, and other relevant agencies) to conduct a nationwide assessment of the cumulative impacts of hyperscale data centers.
- Establish national minimum standards for siting large-scale data centers near residential neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, churches, farms, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Require environmental and community impact reporting before projects receiving federal funding, tax incentives, or permits proceed.
- Require public disclosure of projected water use, electrical demand, backup generator emissions, and long-term infrastructure costs.
- Create federal guidance for Community Proximity Impact Index assessments so states evaluate projects using consistent criteria.
- Encourage research into lower-water, lower-energy cooling technologies and more efficient computing infrastructure.

- Review whether existing tax incentives remain appropriate given the rapid growth of the industry.

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**Data Center
Template:
Developmental
Oversight
State Legislator
Letter**

August 5, 2026

Representative [Public Official's Name]

[Title]

[Office Address]

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Finally, I ask that future decisions regarding large-scale data center development prioritize transparency, scientific evidence, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and meaningful community participation. Economic development should not come at the expense of informed public consent or the long-term health and well-being of our communities.

I respectfully ask you to support legislation and policies that:

- Establish a temporary moratorium on approvals for new large-scale data center developments until comprehensive regulatory standards are adopted
- Require independent Community Proximity Impact Index evaluations before project approval
- Increase public notification requirements and opportunities for meaningful community input
- Require cumulative impact analyses rather than evaluating projects in isolation
- Ensure full transparency regarding incentives, tax abatements, utility agreements, and public expenditures
- Promote strong ethics and conflict-of-interest safeguards to maintain public confidence in governmental decision-making
- Balance technological innovation with responsible stewardship of our natural resources, infrastructure, and communities

State legislatures generally control incentives, zoning laws (to varying degrees), taxation, environmental statutes, and public notice requirements.

Additional requests to State legislatures:

- Introduce legislation creating a statewide Community Proximity Impact Index.
- Require public hearings before tax abatements or infrastructure incentives are approved.
- Require utilities to publicly disclose projected impacts on electric rates.
- Require independent water availability studies before permits are issued.
- Require decommissioning plans and financial assurances for facilities.
- Establish minimum setbacks and buffering requirements where appropriate.
- Require annual public reporting on water use, electricity consumption, and environmental compliance.

Our communities deserve thoughtful planning that protects both innovation and the public interest. I appreciate your service and respectfully ask for your leadership in ensuring that decisions made today reflect the long-term interests of current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

**Data Center
Template:
EPA Oversight
Request
Letter**

August 5, 2026

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 564-4700

Re: Request for Federal Environmental Oversight, Transparency, and Review of Large-Scale Data Center Development

Dear Administrator and Environmental Protection Agency Officials,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to respectfully request that the Environmental Protection Agency exercise every authority available under federal law to evaluate and oversee the rapid expansion of large-scale data center development throughout the United States.

[Insert your personal story here.]

Communities across the country are witnessing an unprecedented pace of proposed and ongoing data center construction. While I recognize that data centers play an important role in supporting communications, healthcare, research, national security, and the digital economy, the scale and speed of current development raise important environmental and public-interest questions that deserve careful review before irreversible impacts occur.

I respectfully ask the EPA to exercise its authority where applicable to consider projects only on an individual basis.

- Evaluate each data center project's environmental impacts where applicable, including:
 - Review potential effects on groundwater supplies, surface water resources, and drinking water availability.
 - Assess impacts on air quality resulting from backup generators, construction activities, and associated infrastructure.
 - Evaluate noise impacts affecting nearby homes, schools, churches, farms, and businesses.
 - Examine land-use changes, habitat fragmentation, wetlands, and sensitive ecosystems where federal jurisdiction exists.
 - Coordinate with state environmental agencies, tribal governments, and local governments to ensure consistent environmental review.
 - Ensure compliance with applicable federal environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act where applicable, and other federal statutes administered or enforced by the EPA.
 - Increase transparency by making environmental studies, monitoring information, and compliance records readily accessible to affected communities.

An additional area deserving careful review is the availability and use of alternative cooling technologies. Industry representatives, including data center developer Doug Sevey has publicly stated that data centers can be designed and operated using cooling systems that require little or **no water**, depending on the facility's design and operating conditions. If these technologies are technically and economically feasible in appropriate settings, I respectfully request that the EPA examine their environmental benefits as part of its review and oversight responsibilities. Specifically, I ask the Agency to evaluate whether lower-water or water-free cooling technologies could reduce demands on local water supplies, lessen environmental impacts, and provide communities and decision-makers with information about reasonable alternatives during the environmental review process. Such evaluations would support informed decision-making while encouraging innovation and helping protect water resources for residents, agriculture, ecosystems, and future generations.

I also respectfully request that the EPA encourage meaningful public participation during environmental review processes so that residents have sufficient opportunity to understand potential impacts and provide informed comments before major decisions are made.

Many communities are concerned that multiple projects may collectively place increasing demands on local water supplies, electrical infrastructure, transportation systems, emergency services, and surrounding neighborhoods. Even where individual projects satisfy existing regulatory requirements, the combined effects of numerous facilities may warrant additional study and interagency coordination.

This request is not intended to oppose technology or responsible economic development. Rather, it reflects a desire for balanced decision-making that protects both innovation and the health, safety, and environmental well-being of current and future generations. Transparent environmental review and consistent oversight can help communities, developers, and government agencies make better-informed decisions.

I respectfully ask the EPA to review the extent of its authority regarding these issues and to exercise all appropriate powers available under federal law to protect environmental resources, ensure compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, promote transparency, and coordinate with other governmental entities where appropriate.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration of this request. I would appreciate any information regarding existing EPA initiatives, guidance, or actions related to the environmental impacts of large-scale data center development.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP]

[Email Address]
[Phone Number]