



The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, The Capitol  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office  
Building  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2187 Rayburn House Office Building  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 19, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As the United States leads the global A.I. revolution, smart federal policy can ensure innovation, economic growth, and community benefits. However, data center development has often run into community opposition, an electric grid without capacity, and resource constraints that hinder growth and drive up costs. As you develop the Fiscal Year 2027 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, we, the undersigned, as Members of the New Democrat Coalition, respectfully request the inclusion of report language directing the Department of Energy to develop a National Strategic Data Center Plan to guide the responsible growth of data center infrastructure across the United States.

Rapidly increasing demand for data centers, driven by cloud computing and AI, is vital for America's economy and competitiveness. However, this expansion strains electricity grids, land, water, and community infrastructure, particularly where data centers are concentrated. This necessitates a nationwide development strategy to balance positive and


negative impacts, ensuring mutual benefit and coexistence for communities and data centers. We therefore request the following report language be included in the FY27 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill:

*The Committee recognizes the rapid growth of data center infrastructure driven by increased demand for cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and other advanced technologies. The Committee directs the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other relevant federal agencies, to develop a National Strategic Data Center Plan. The plan shall evaluate projected electricity demand associated with data center growth, identify impacts on grid reliability and electricity costs for consumers, assess infrastructure and transmission needs, and provide recommendations for sustainable and efficient deployment of data centers across the United States.*

*The plan should also examine strategies to promote energy-efficient and water-efficient data center operations, encourage geographic diversification of digital infrastructure to reduce systemic risk, and address potential national security considerations associated with concentrated data center development. In developing the plan, the Department shall consult with state and local governments, electric utilities, regional transmission organizations, data center operators, consumer advocates, and environmental stakeholders. Not later than 18 months after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit the National Strategic Data Center Plan, including any legislative recommendations, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.*

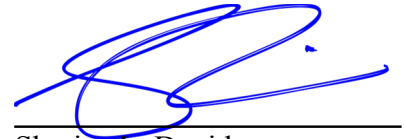
Developing a national strategy will help ensure the United States continues to lead in digital innovation while responsibly managing the infrastructure demands that accompany rapid technological growth. As Members of the New Democrat Coalition, we look forward to working with the Committee to ensure that federal policy protects communities and economic innovation.

Sincerely,




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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress




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Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress




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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress




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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress




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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress




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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress




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Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress




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Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress



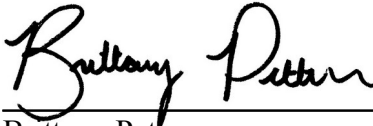
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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



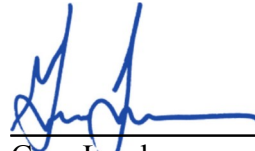
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress