



MICHIGAN DATA CENTERS: **MAKE BIG TECH PAY**

THE PROBLEM

YOUR BILLS ARE RISING & BIG TECH IS TO BLAME

Big Tech companies like **Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI** are racing to build massive data centers across the country to power artificial intelligence (AI). These facilities are big-time electricity guzzlers, and all that power costs money at a time when families are already stretched by grocery, gas, and housing costs. Big Tech isn't paying for it – **you are**.

Average Michigan electric bills rose by **6.3%** in 2025, an increase of roughly **\$90** per household. ¹

DTE has told investors it wants as much as **8.4 gigawatts** of data center load – enough to **nearly double** everything the utility currently supplies. The Saline Township project alone is **1,383 megawatts**, more than a million homes' worth of power. ²

Data center growth could raise electricity bills by as much as **25%** in some regional markets. ³

THEY PROFIT. YOU PAY.

BIG TECH CASHES IN

\$15 million in tax breaks for a single data center, by the legislature's own estimate ⁵

YOU PAY

+\$90 more on your electric bill in 2025 ¹

BIG TECH GETS MILLIONS. YOU GET HIGHER BILLS

Taxpayers are subsidizing the data center boom, through backroom deals for subsidies, tax incentives, and special treatment that amount to **giveaways to Big Tech**.

Data centers nationwide receive industry-specific **tax breaks** that shift costs onto households and small businesses.⁴

Michigan exempted large data centers from its **6% sales and use tax** at the end of 2024 on an estimate of about **\$2.5 million a year**. The legislature's own analysts put the break at **at least \$15 million** per qualifying center and called the ongoing loss "of unknown magnitude." At least **15 hyperscale projects** have been proposed since.⁵

THE JOB CREATION MYTH

FEWER JOBS. RISING COSTS

"Tech companies are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in data centers across the country. But despite the record-setting price tags, the centers create few jobs."

NPR'S ALL THINGS CONSIDERED⁶

Big Tech promises economic development, but data centers create **few permanent local jobs** while raising costs for existing small businesses.

Data centers are among the least labor-intensive structures in the economy, generating roughly **one permanent job per 5,000 square feet**.⁷

The Stargate campus in Saline Township – **\$7 billion** across 1.65 million square feet on 250 acres – is expected to support about **450 permanent jobs**, while drawing more power than a million homes.⁸

THE SECRECY

THEY'RE HIDING WHO THEY ARE

Local officials are forced to sign **non-disclosure agreements**, and companies **sue towns that say no**.^{10 11}

State regulators approved the **1,383-megawatt** Saline Township power contracts **without a public hearing**, after the utility asked them to move quickly and residents and consumer groups were denied a chance to intervene.⁹

Michigan's own **Attorney General is appealing** that decision in the Court of Appeals, warning it sets the precedent for every data center case that follows.⁹

In Lowell Charter Township, a **\$1 billion** Microsoft project hid behind **two NDAs** for roughly a year before the company identified itself.⁹

PUBLIC OPINION

MICHIGANDERS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSE BIG TECH'S DEMANDS

An April 2026 Emerson College poll found **55% of Michiganders oppose** data centers being built in or near their community – roughly twice the **27%** who support them.¹²

Nationally, **71% of Americans** oppose building an AI data center in their local area – **more than oppose a nuclear power plant** nearby (53%).¹³

Overall, **85% of Americans** want lawmakers to pass a law that forces Big Tech, not taxpayers, to pay for the true cost of data centers.¹⁴

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

- **Big Tech creates these costs, so Big Tech should pay them.** Not the family down the road, and not the small business trying to keep the lights on.
- Stop the false choice between community investment and giving trillion-dollar companies **blank checks**. Force tech giants to pay for their data centers, instead of hardworking Michiganders.
- Pass **real state-level ratepayer protections** into law and end the billions in annual state and local tax breaks for data center construction. That's money that should fund schools, healthcare, and strategic, sustainable long-term economic development.
- Regulators did attach conditions and ordered the utility to file a large-load tariff. But they approved the first contracts **without a public hearing**, the Attorney General is appealing, and the **tax exemption is untouched** – an open-ended break running to 2050 and beyond.¹⁵
- **Repeal the data center sales and use tax exemption.** Bipartisan bills to do it have been introduced in both chambers. And no contract this size should ever again be approved without a **public hearing**.¹⁵

MAKE BIG TECH PAY!

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