



PENNSYLVANIA 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 Pennsylvania electric bills rose by **12.1%** in 2025, an increase of roughly **\$210** per household. ¹

Data centers drove **63% of the record price spike** in the PJM capacity market that serves Pennsylvania – **\$9.3 billion** in a single year. Capacity prices went from \$28.92 to **\$329.17 per megawatt-day** in two years. 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

\$2 billion in Pennsylvania tax breaks by 2031 ⁵

YOU PAY

+\$210 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

Pennsylvania's data center sales tax exemption lets developers skip the state's 6% sales tax, and its cost is climbing fast – from **\$41 million** in 2025 to a projected **\$260 million** in 2028, and **more than \$2 billion** by 2031.⁵

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

Amazon's **\$20 billion** buildout is the largest private investment in state history, and it is expected to create about **1,250 permanent jobs**. At its Kline Township campus, **2.5 million square feet** runs on **25 to 30 workers per building**.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}

Putting local officials under non-disclosure agreements was routine here until the Governor **prohibited NDAs** for data center projects by executive order in August.⁹

Pennsylvania Connects, a front group created by the Data Center Coalition, has run **six figures** of television advertising without disclosing the Big Tech companies paying for it.⁹

It is **not a Pennsylvania group**. It is one of eight near-identical operations the Data Center Coalition set up across the country, running the same website and the same ads.⁹

PUBLIC OPINION

PENNSYLVANIANS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSE BIG TECH'S DEMANDS

A statewide survey found **77% of Pennsylvania voters** support holding Big Tech companies accountable for data centers that are driving up home energy bills.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 Pennsylvanians.
- 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.
- Pennsylvania has real guardrails, but they rest on an **executive order**. It bans NDAs, pulls data centers from fast-track permitting, and denies the sales tax break to new applicants that refuse the state's standards. It does **not end the exemption** – the legislature created that, and only the legislature can undo it.¹⁵
- The **state Senate** should pass **HB 2650**, which the House already passed in June. It writes those standards into law and replaces the blanket tax break with a certification requirement, so the protections survive the next governor and the giveaway stops.¹⁵

MAKE BIG TECH PAY!

SOURCES

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