

February 3, 2026

Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Re: House Bill 2151

Dear Members,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our concerns with House Bill 2151, Representative Donahue's bill to establish community standards for data center developments that is scheduled for a committee vote tomorrow.

The Co-sponsorship memorandum describes the bill as one that amends "the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), in zoning, providing for data center ordinance assistance; and imposing duties on the Center for Local Government Services."

The MPC is more than an operator's manual for municipal governments. It is the document that articulates and affirms the areas of authority held by local governments that are discreet from those of the state. Amendments to the MPC should be made with care and only when necessary.

Advancing a model ordinance via an amendment to the MPC gives it weight it might not deserve. We believe this is the case with the model ordinance that would be developed by the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Center for Local Government Services as the bill stipulates.

DCED is not an impartial party in decisions regarding data center development. It is the state agency that is actively engaged in not just bringing data centers to Pennsylvania, but in fast-tracking their approval. Giving any model ordinance the agency would develop the MPC's imprimatur would be a misuse of the MPC.

It is worth noting that the same agency that is assisting in fast-tracking data center approvals would be given six months to develop a model ordinance. As the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors testified at yesterday's House Energy Committee hearing, data centers have been a concern for its members for more than a year. Many have already been working on updating their zoning ordinances to stay ahead of the data center proposals that, if received before the ordinance is updated, are not subject to the changes made. Municipalities awaiting an MPC-endorsed model ordinance would do so at their peril.

We urge you to reject House Bill 2151.

Respectfully,

Karen Feridun, Co-Founder, Better Path Coalition

on behalf of the undersigned

Grier Boedker, Sr., Ceo, Associated Insurance Management, Inc.

Grier Boedker, Managing Partner, BB&K Partnership

Rebecca Roter, Chairperson, Breathe Easy Susquehanna County

Jake Kline, Organizer, Briar Creek Residents Against Proposed Data Center

Hilary Flint, Program Director, Center for Oil & Gas Organizing

Deb Alpaugh, Secretary / Treasurer, Central Pennsylvania Mini Horse Pullers

Jill Schneider, Chapter Leader, Climate Reality Project Lehigh Valley Chapter

Sandy Field, Chair, Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter

Sam Burleigh, Founder, Concerned Citizens of Montour County

Barbara W Brandom, M.D., Committee Member, Concerned Health Professionals of
Pennsylvania

Anneke van Rossum, Advocacy and Advancement Coordinator, Delaware Riverkeeper
Network

Christine McNeil, President, East Vincent Advocacy

Ginny Marcille Kerslake, Sr. Organizer, Food & Water Watch Pennsylvania

Maya van Rossum, Founder, Green Amendments For The Generations

Michael Sauers, Writer/Editor, Greenfirecoalition Writers' Forum

Kevin Long, Pastor, Intertwined Faith Community

Nikki Burrows, General Manager, Kurt Weiss Danville LLC

Sam Burleigh, Hobby farmer, Lazy B Homestead owner

Ann Vinatieri, Co-Leader, Luzerne County Community Action Coalition

Barbara Laxon, Chair, McKean County Green Party

Marc Nespoli, Owner, MKN Property Management LLC

Ashley Funk, Executive Director, Mountain Watershed Association

Tamela Trussell, Founder/Educator, Move Past Plastic (MPP)

Lauren Miller, CEO/ Founder / Cinematographer / Film Editor, Legacies in Motion, Co.

Genevieve Boland, Co-founder, No Conshy Data Centers

Karen Elias, Co-Founder, No False Climate Solutions PA

Michael Bagdes-Canning, Planning Group Member, Pennsylvania Action on Climate

Ned Ketyer, MD, President, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania

Joanna Tenney, Admin, Prevent East Vincent Data Center Development

Kayleigh Wolfe , Admin, Prevent Limerick Data Center Development

Gillian Graber, Executive Director, Protect PT (Penn-Trafford)

Sandy Field, Chair, Save our Susquehanna

Jennifer Frye, Organizer, Stop Data Center Rezoning in Conewago Township

Heather Hulton VanTassel , Executive Director, Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Jan Milburn, President, Westmoreland Marcellus Citizens Group