Governor, we do appreciate your Executive Order, but we would much prefer the much more robust provisions of the Act passed by the State Legislature. This would be a law that could not be rescinded. Thank you.

121 E. Court St.
Ithaca, NY 14850
July 21, 2026

Dear Governor Hochul:

We recently received a text message from you, asking if you could count on us "to step up and chip in" to help you reach your campaign fundraising goal. As Tompkins County Legislators and lifelong Democrata, we'd like to be able to say yes. But sadly, we cannot support your campaign or give you our votes unless and until you sign into law the Responsible Data Center Development Act (S10642/A11560). This year, we will be single-issue voters on the data center issue.

Our constituents are struggling to keep their heads above water as the cost of absolutely everything they need – housing, food, utilities, health care, child care, and insurance – skyrockets. NYSEG asks at every opportunity for substantial and unaffordable rate hikes, and your Public Service Commission consistently gives the company more than its poor performance and record of broken promises deserve. What impact would the additional power demand caused by data centers have on the cost of residential electricity?

Meanwhile, the inadequacy of our electric grid to meet current needs is well known. Your own Facebook post of June 2, 2026 acknowledged the fragility of our grid. You noted that our grid was "under heavy strain," and asked us to "voluntarily conserve power" in a variety of ways to "help prevent outages, keep the power on, and protect the most vulnerable members of our communities." Please tell us, Governor, how would a data center respond to that request? Is a data center even able to "voluntarily conserve" energy by reducing its consumption, especially during a heat wave? Knowing as you do that New York's grid is already overburdened, why would you not pump the brakes on data center construction that could double demand on an already fragile system?

On a more personal note, the Town of Lansing here in Tompkins County has been targeted by Paul Prager's TeraWulf-affiliated companies as a data center site. TeraWulf's campaign to get the necessary permits has been intensely divisive in the Lansing community, and a source of great concern throughout Tompkins County. In 2025, TeraWulf and its affiliates threatened litigation against the Lansing Town Board over alleged Open Meetings Law violations and a proposed land-use development moratorium. Meanwhile, data center supporters have threatened and harassed Town Board members, staged write-in campaigns, and filed repetitious FOIL requests that have cost the Town more than

$200,000 so far. One can only wonder what kind of neighbor a TeraWulf data center would actually be.

Finally, a data center on the shores of Cayuga Lake is a terrifying prospect to those of us in Tompkins and surrounding counties. We depend on the lake for water, recreation, and revenues from a tourism industry driven by our beautiful natural environment. Despite corporate assurances to the contrary, it seems highly unlikely that a data center on the scale proposed by TeraWulf would have little or no impact on the health of Cayuga Lake.

In conclusion, Governor, we're afraid you cannot count on us unless and until we can count on you to sign the data center moratorium bill before November 3.

Thank you for your consideration of the needs of your constituents in the Finger Lakes.

Sincerely,

Shawna Black
Chair, Tompkins County Legislature
District

Deborah Dawson
Vice-Chair, Tompkins County Legislature

Irene Weiser
Chair, Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee

Christy Bianconi
Member, Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee

Judith Hubbard
Member, Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee

John Hunt
Member, Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee

Rachel Ostlund
Member, Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee

Veronica Pillar
District 2

Adam Vinson
Member, Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee

cc: Sen. Lea Webb
Assembly Member Anna Kelles
The Ithaca Times
Ithaca Voice