

May 6 2026

Dear House Committee on Finance,

My name is Christopher Cheney. I live in Providence. I am writing in opposition to bill 7695. Data centers provide few jobs relative to their enormous resource usage, and giving tax exemptions would mean the state and the people of Rhode Island get little out of hypothetical future data centers in the long term, despite the requirements for investments. Additionally, much of the demand for data centers currently is propped up by the AI bubble. Given the time frame for a company choosing to build one and it actually being built, there is every possibility of a half-finished data center being abandoned. And finally, the requirement for investment in renewable energy is far too open and far too easy to exploit. Any hypothetical future company would be finding ways to argue an investment that actually just benefits them would count, such as investing in partner companies.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Cheney