

May 7, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

**RE: Opposition to House Bill 7695 – Qualified Data Center Tax Exemptions**

I am writing to oppose House Bill 7695, which would establish unprecedented tax exemptions for qualified data centers in Rhode Island for up to 30 years.

This is a policy that affects RI infrastructure, our access to water, biological effects, and other essential issues.

Such essential decisions need appropriate and in-depth environmental, biological, ethical, the effect of already limited energy supply (and potential crises) and infrastructure assessment.

As I hope we all know, at a time when energy supply is vulnerable, supporting data centers in RI could put our entire infrastructure at risk--from the electricity that powers our refrigerators, lighting and computers to the electricity needed to heat many homes.

There is also the water that these centers use in unprecedented amounts, and potentially dwindling our supply of clean water. There are the pollution issues. And so much more.

Rhode Islanders are already struggling with the costs of electricity. We should not be adding to their burden. And what are these data centers for? AI. AI, which has so many ethical issues and concerns--the number of people in the industry--or who've left the industry-- raising the issue of frightening scenarios and AI already out of control of those who are supposedly managing it tells us that we need to think and research and weigh heavily before we act and encourage more.

Tax incentives at this scale could go to strengthening RI's electrical grid, water systems, environmental support and public infrastructure for our citizens--not for a questionable resource that is already taking away jobs, and raising energy costs and abusing water systems around the country.

Rhode Island has previously experienced major public disputes surrounding industrial-scale water allocation and infrastructure capacity involving large corporate facilities such as Amgen. let's learn from our previous lessons.

It should be noted as well that this is just the kind of issue that our elected officials should be informing citizens --the people who elected you! -- about and getting our input--not railroading, obfuscating and ignoring our needs and informed opinions.

I respectfully request you to oppose House Bill 7695

Lisa Tener  
Saunderstown, RI  
OPPOSE!