

20 Lewis St
Providence, RI 02906
rose@pobox.com
March 10, 2026

Senate Commerce Committee
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Britto and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to oppose S2346, a bill to benefit data centers, and wish to also note my skepticism on bills such as S2776 on data centers' electricity use.

Although data centers could be helpful in principle, they are currently so unregulated that their proliferation is harmful. As a software engineer, I oppose S2346 which seems aimed at encouraging data centers. Data centers use people's most private information without giving the people involved a meaningful say, and use people's most creative and personal activity to train AI systems without giving people any compensation. Increasingly, people are losing control over their important aspects of their lives, as the options they are given and the content they are shown are chosen by algorithms which the individual citizen has no say in. As these algorithms proliferate, data centers spring up to run them, but the public is still not given any say over what these algorithms are. When an AI system is trained by a company to predict your behavior and to guide the company's decisions, no one even knows what the AI is thinking in its inner workings. AI is increasing layoffs of our workforce and making many people's working conditions worse. And with or without AI, data centers' algorithms have often led to a loss of human connection, contributing to a decrease in mental health and more angry polarization. I believe algorithms have a lot of good to offer to the world, but it is increasingly clear that without more regulation, the proliferation of data centers will not be a good thing. It is certainly a bad idea to give tax breaks to data centers, as S2346 does – although data centers have a powerful effect on the economy, their increasing dominance of the economy does not help ordinary people in the absence of regulation.

Likewise, bill S2776 makes a partial effort to have data centers cover at least some of the cost of the extra infrastructure that is needed to cover the additional demand for electricity and water stemming from the construction of data centers. But I oppose S2776 because it doesn't go far enough. S2776 and similar bills don't make data centers pay for the full cost of their infrastructure requirements, including water and sewage.

In my view, before passing any such bill, we should first ensure that there is more serious regulation of AI and other algorithms that exploit the consumer.

Sincerely,

Randall Rose