

Angel's Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2776

March 9, 2026

To the Senate Commerce Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Angel Lopez, and I am a resident of Providence. I write to you today in opposition to Senate Bill 2776. The bill is merely an enabler for the development of data centers while barely scratching the surface to regulate the adverse environmental impacts that accompany data centers. The bill also fails to impose any mandatory regulation requirements. Below are five realities that serve as reasons to hold this bill for further study.

I. Data Centers will increase the demand for electricity. They will not produce 100% of their own electricity thus the remaining electricity required by the data center will increase the regional demand and drive up the whole sale price that RI Energy pays.

II. Data Centers place heavy burdens on the local water supply. Increasing the demand for clean water will also increase water tariffs for residents and lead to temporary water restrictions. Water quality will also be adversely impacted causing residents to pay more for lower quality water.

III. The RI Water Resources Board no longer has a Treasurer position to look after the state's water sources, diminishing the authenticity of a Water Use Disclosure and its expectations to benefit our clean water sources.

IV. Currently, there is no known data center operating in the United States that does not disturb the residents who live near the data center. There are many disturbed residents affected in numerous ways. Some residents are requesting property tax reductions as operating permits are being renewed.

V. This bill does nothing to secure or enforce the environmental protections that exist today. The bill does not pull in the RI DEM, the EPA, or site any federal laws such as the Clean Air or Clean Water Act as remediation steps if forced to regulate a non-compliant data center.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Angel Lopez
Resident of Providence, RI