



Senator Robert Britto, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce
Rhode Island Senate

March 10th, 2026

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Testimony on Senate Bill 2776.

Dear Chair Britto and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2776** which would require that costs associated with electric generation transmission and distribution for data centers be borne by the data center.

Importance of Mitigating Ratepayer Impacts

Green Energy Consumers has been researching the development of data centers around the country and believe there are potentially adverse impacts associated with their development on ratepayers, the environment, and infrastructure. We appreciate S2776 looking to mitigate the ratepayer impacts by requiring that new data centers bear the cost associated with electric generation and its transmission and distribution.

S2776 includes a section on “water use disclosure”, requiring that data centers submit annual reports on their water consumption and methods employed for water reuse. A similar requirement for energy use disclosure should be required to ensure new data centers are utilizing available energy efficiency programs and to ensure that facilities are not contributing to energy waste. An energy use disclosure reporting requirement could be developed by the Office of Energy Resources or considered by the Energy Efficiency Council. The Office of Energy Resources could also require an energy efficiency and conservation plan as a condition of receiving a permit, similar to the water efficiency plan in 46-15.9-3.

Should data centers continue to be built in Rhode Island, it is critical to develop protections for ratepayers and the environment, while also ensuring that infrastructure is maintained. Green Energy Consumers supports a requirement for data centers to bear costs associated with electricity generation but would favor an expansion of the language to encompass greater energy efficiency measures.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
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