

May 19, 2026

To members of the Seattle City Council,

We, the undersigned organizations, collectively representing tens of thousands of Seattle residents, call on you to support a moratorium on the approval and construction of new data centers in the city of Seattle.

Seattle's resources are already stretched thin—we should not put more strain on the system to help the largest and most profitable companies in the world grow larger and more powerful.

Washington State is in a climate emergency. The last year has seen both catastrophic flooding and drought, and we know more is on the way. Furthermore, Seattle City Light is already stretched, raising rates more than 14% in the last four years, with a projected 7-11% annual rate increase through 2032. SCL needs to find solutions promoting electrification and community resilience without saddling ratepayers with impossible bills.

The rapid expansion of data centers across the United States, driven by the generative artificial intelligence (AI) boom, presents one of the biggest environmental and social threats of our generation. This expansion is wildly increasing demand for energy, driving fossil fuel pollution, straining water resources, and raising electricity prices across the country. These concerns compounds the already enormous impacts A.I. has on society, including lost jobs, social instability, and intensified economic inequality.

Given the stakes, we absolutely need a moratorium so that we can consider under what circumstances, if any, new data centers would be a net positive for the city. We can't allow ourselves to be run over by a Big Tech juggernaut that's insisting that all of this is "inevitable"—while working to ensure that it is.

The rapid, largely unregulated rise of data centers to fuel the AI frenzy is disrupting communities across the country and threatening Americans' economic, environmental, climate and water security. We urge you to enact a moratorium on new data centers in the city of Seattle. We need to protect our resources: power, water, and quality of life. Let's find a better path forward together.

Sincerely,

*350 Seattle*

*350 Yakima Climate Action*

*Coalition for Rights & Safety for People in the Sex Trade*

*Food & Water Watch*

*Got Green*

*Indivisible Civil Resistance of Seattle*

*Irthlingz Arts-Based Environmental Education*

*Labels Consignment*

*Massage Parlor Organizing Project*

*Nuclear Free Northwest*

*Oil and Gas Action Network*

*People's Tech Project*

*Puget Sound Workers League*

*Raven Lunatic Studios*

*Resist Tech Monopolies*

*Seattle Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators*

*Seattle Democratic Socialists of America*

*Seattle Education Association*

*Seattle Indivisible*

*South Seattle Climate Action Network*

*Strippers Are Workers*

*Third Act Washington*

*Troublemakers*

*UNITE HERE Local 8*

*Washington Clean Energy Coalition*

*Washington Working Families Party*

*West Seattle Resist*