

ACTION SHEET

August 10, 2026



“New Jersey families have seen their electricity bills increased by 20% because of the rapid growth of energy-intensive AI data centers. Our bills would protect Americans by requiring data centers to generate their own clean energy, transition to 100% renewable sources by 2040, and provide detailed, transparent reporting on their environmental footprint. Addressing the growing energy affordability crisis requires bold solutions, and that is what we are delivering with this legislation that puts working families first.”

—[Rep. Rob Menendez](#) (D-NJ) on PRICE Act and Data Center Transparency Act

Overview

During this election season, Congress members and those running for office are feeling pressure from voters. A top concern in many parts of the country is the financial and environmental costs of data centers. From now until Election Day, we will be advocating for bills in Congress that address data centers, while both educating voters about environmental justice issues that have arisen with data centers and encouraging our local media to cover data centers as a key election issue that requires urgent action. This month we will plan postcard writing parties for September that feature screenings of [a 17-minute video](#) on the injustices involved with a data center in Memphis.

Laser Talk

Nationwide, communities are protesting existing and proposed data centers that consume enormous amounts of energy and water at a financial and environmental cost borne by residents. The United States has more than [3,000 data centers](#). Of particular concern are “hyperscale” data centers that demand at least 50 MW of power—enough electricity for a small city. [Sixty-eight hyperscale facilities operate today, and 267 more are planned](#). Although data centers are found in communities with varied incomes and racial compositions, hyperscale facilities, such as xAI’s facility in Memphis, illustrate a familiar pattern of environmental injustice: a powerful corporation adds pollution to an already overburdened, predominantly Black community, while the concerns of residents are discounted and [environmental protection laws are flouted](#). Reps. Rob Menendez (D-NJ) and Greg Casar (D-TX) have introduced two bills. [H.R. 6983](#) would require data centers to generate their own electricity and transition to 100% clean energy over time. [H.R. 6984](#) would require reporting on data centers’ air, water, energy, and consumer-cost impacts. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) has introduced [S. 5054](#) which would require similar reporting from large data centers while restricting a federal tax benefit unless an AI data center meets certain efficiency or sustainability standards. Urge representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 6983 and H.R. 6984, while urging senators to co-sponsor S. 5054.

Faith Messaging

Earlier this year, faith communities and chapters across the country participated in our annual Climate Hope Art Contest, which invited children and youth to create art reflecting on the theme “A Future with Hope.” Our theme came from Jeremiah 29:11, which says, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” As we meet with our elected officials and educate the broader community, we can point to our winning artwork by 12-year-old Leah and offer this prompt: “What kind of future do we want? Don’t ask AI. Ask our children.”

What the Bills Do

Reps. Menendez and Casar introduced two bills together to address some of the economic and environmental harms created by data centers. The Preventing Rate Inflation in Consumer Energy (“PRICE”) Act (H.R. 6983) would require data centers to generate the electricity they consume, require that electricity to be 75 percent clean by 2035 and 100 percent clean by 2040, and impose civil penalties of up to \$100,000 per day on data centers that fail to comply.

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The Data Center Transparency Act (H.R. 6984) would require the Environmental Protection Agency to collect and update data every three months on data centers' environmental impacts, including water consumption, water utility costs, potential water pollutants, air pollution, greenhouse-gas emissions, and cumulative impacts on overburdened communities. It would also require the Energy Information Administration to collect and update data every six months on data center energy consumption, including total energy use and changes in household energy bills.

Sen. Warner introduced the Data Center Tax Accountability and Disclosure Act of 2026 (S. 5054) to require large data centers with at least 25 MW of power demand to disclose their energy, water, emissions, backup-power, and siting-related impacts, including information about utility agreements and local zoning or setback requirements. It would also require public reporting by the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, limit the use of nondisclosure agreements to hide required information, and restrict a federal tax benefit for AI data centers unless they meet LEED Gold or Platinum standards or an equivalent sustainability standard approved by Department of Energy and EPA.

Take Action This Month:

This month we will write our members of Congress and plan postcard writing parties for September that feature screenings of [a 17-minute video](#) on the injustices involved with a data center in Memphis. Here are the steps to take:

- (1) Watch the video during your monthly chapter meeting.
- (2) Write representatives urging them cosponsor H.R. 6983 and H.R. 6984, and write your senators urging them to cosponsor S. 5054.
- (3) Plan one or more screening and letter-writing events for September. Consider after-church adult education hours as one possible venue. Consider weeknight screenings at your local public library. Consider house parties whereby one invites friends to a more intimate gathering in one's home.
- (4) Prepare yourself with [sign-up sheets](#), [printed postcards](#) (for Avery 8387 paper), and an easy-to-follow [sheet of writing instructions](#) using the links in this Action Sheet.
- (5) At chapter meetings, practice public speaking roles for the event:
 - Words of welcome with a brief introduction of Climate Hope Affiliates and your local chapter
 - Invite attendees to introduce themselves with their name and one word or phrase that describes their feelings or concerns about climate change. (For time management, consider having responses given in pairs and not to the entire gathering.)
 - Introduce the video by sharing that CHA is offering this story of injustice with one goal in mind: that people then have an opportunity to generate hope by taking action.
 - Give a laser talk about the bills.
 - Go over the instructions for writing postcards to one's members of Congress as we ask representatives to co-sponsor the bills. Let them know that postcards will be hand-delivered as early as possible.
 - Invite people to join your chapter as you pass around the sign-up sheet.
- (5) After the event is over, have members of your chapter deliver the postcards in-person to your local Congressional offices. Have it be part of a meeting with a staff member.
- (6) Report each event in our action tracker:
<https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/39544676#page>

From now until Election Day, we have three national goals for our CHA chapters: a total of 15 postcard writing events, 30 published letters to the editor, and 5 op-eds or editorials.