

ACTION SHEET

September 16, 2026



“Families should not pay more for utilities so that billionaires can get rich off AI data centers. With this bill, Congressman Menendez and I are saying clearly: AI data centers should not be allowed to jack up your electric bill or poison your environment.”

—[Rep. Greg Casar](#) (D-TX) 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 that address data centers. Our campaign will educate voters about environmental justice issues that have arisen with data centers and encourage our local media to cover this key election issue that requires urgent action. We have three national goals during this campaign: (1) host a total of 15 [video](#) screenings and [postcard writing parties](#), (2) generate 30 published letters to the editor, and (3) have 5 op-eds or editorials published. This month local chapters will talk to and send our editorial packets to editorial writers while members invite and coach friends and family in writing letters to the editor.

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 megawatts (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. 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.

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 statistics every six months on data center energy consumption,

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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

In addition to talking with and sending editorial packets to local newspaper editorial writers, this month we are focused on reaching our goal of 30 published letters to the editor by Election Day. Letters to the editor are a good way to let your members of Congress know we are watching how they address data centers. It increases your chances of your Congress member becoming a co-sponsor of one or both bills for which we are advocating. To increase the number of letters to the editor published and to increase the number of Congress members we can reach, we are asking friends and family who live near and far to join us in writing a letter to the editor. Offer to coach them in writing and submitting their letter to the editor. Share these steps with them as a guide:

- (1) Read the laser talk in this action sheet to familiarize yourself with the issue. Learn if your Members of Congress are already co-sponsoring [H.R. 6983](#), [H.R. 6984](#), and [S. 5054](#) by clicking on these links and checking.
- (2) Find an article in your daily newspaper to which you can respond. If there are no articles on data centers, search for one on congress or the environment. If you are writing to a weekly newspaper, there is no need to respond to an article. You can simply write about our issue in a way that would be of interest to readers.
- (3) Familiarize yourself with the letter to the editor guidelines for your newspaper (e.g. how many words they allow and how to submit your letter). Read some letters to get a sense of their style and tone.

- (4) Write your letter. You can use this simple formula:

First Sentence: Cite article and briefly describe the article in a way that relates to what you want to discuss.

Second Sentence: Pivot to what you want to discuss. (For example: “While news of what is happening in Congress may lead one to despair, there are two bills that give me hope...”)

One or Two Supporting Sentences: Draw from facts listed in action sheet. If possible, connect the issue to a matter of local concern.

Second to Last Sentence: An expression of how your faith or values lead you to the position you are taking.

Final Sentence: Call to action that invites readers to join Climate Hope Affiliates in contacting their Members of Congress. If they are already a co-sponsor for the bills, thank them. If they are not co-sponsors, urge them to become one. (For example: “Readers should join with organizations like Climate Hope Affiliates in calling congressional offices at (202) 224-3121 to urge Representative _____ to co-sponsor H.R. 6983 and H.R. 6984, while urging Senators _____ and _____ to co-sponsor S. 5054.”)

- (5) Share your published letter on social media. Send it to your Members of Congress and call their aides to make sure they saw it. Finally, report your published letter in our action track:

<https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/39544676#page>