

INTERIM RESOLUTION 2025-008

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENCOURAGE A MORATORIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPENING OF DATA CENTERS IN ARKANSAS WHILE THE STATE DEVELOPS STANDARDS FOR DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OTHER LOCALITIES.

WHEREAS, the United States of America is experiencing unprecedented growth in demand for data center development, driven by the need for computing infrastructure that supports artificial intelligence, cloud computing, streaming services, and other computing operations; and

WHEREAS, the increasing demand for data storage and processing capacities, especially for intensive computational tasks, has led to proposals for the construction and operation of data centers in this state which require large amounts of energy to run and water to cool thousands of computer servers; and

WHEREAS, initial power or electric loads for major data center projects such as those in Wrightsville and the Port of Little Rock start around one hundred fifty megawatts (150 MW), with total state capacity projected to skyrocket past five hundred megawatts (500 MW) and potential multi-gigawatt scaling ahead; and

WHEREAS, the growth of statewide power or electric load required by data centers challenges the clean energy targets of the state and will require additional energy supply to serve the increasing power or electric load requirements; and

WHEREAS, data center development can be unpredictable and could create risks for utility companies and their customers, including when infrastructure investments are made in anticipation of increased power or electric loads that may not fully materialize; and

WHEREAS, the state is dedicated to environmental quality, sound public health and safety, economic prosperity, and social well-being; and

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2 WHEREAS, residents of this state and across the nation have expressed
3 concerns regarding the potential impacts of the siting and operation of data
4 centers on energy use, water use, water quality, air quality, noise,
5 lighting, quality of life, and other environmental concerns; and
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7 WHEREAS, as competition for clean freshwater resources increases due to
8 threats to water quality, changing precipitation, and drought patterns from
9 climate change, the need to maximize water reuse and implement the best
10 available technologies to conserve water resources becomes increasingly
11 important, especially within sectors of high water demand such as data
12 centers; and
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14 WHEREAS, without rules, policies, or guidance that enable safe,
15 efficient, and economically viable water use and reuse, the state risks
16 exacerbating water scarcity conditions in high-demand areas, constraining
17 industrial growth, and undermining long-term climate resilience; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Governor of New York issued Executive Order 62 in July
20 2026 to place a temporary moratorium on data centers in New York while the
21 state examines the impacts associated with data centers on the environment
22 and energy distribution and establishes standards to help localities and
23 other governmental entities negotiate terms and conditions with the developer
24 or operator of a data center; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Quorum Court has enacted a resolution to
27 establish a regional infrastructure impact policy for large-scale industrial
28 and digital infrastructure development in certain areas of Pulaski County as
29 well as a resolution to regulate high-intensity digital infrastructure
30 facilities in unincorporated areas of Pulaski County; and
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32 WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock has enacted ordinances to establish
33 clear standards for the development of data centers; and
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35 WHEREAS, cities, counties, and other localities across the state could
36 benefit from assistance from the state with resources and with establishment

1 of statutory best practices to support effective negotiation with developers
2 and operators of data centers,

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4 NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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8 THAT the Legislative Council encourage a moratorium on the development
9 and opening of data centers in Arkansas while the state develops standards
10 for data center development to support cities, counties, and other
11 localities.

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20 Respectfully submitted,

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24 Senator Fredrick J. Love

25 District 15

26 Prepared by: JMB/JLL
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