



Ohio House Democratic Caucus

June 23, 2026

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

PUCO Chair Jenifer French
180 E Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine and PUCO Chair French:

We have to take action to protect Ohioans from skyrocketing utility bills. One of the steps we need to take is to protect Ohio's electric ratepayers from a major shift in policy by PJM taking place later this year. Therefore, we write with urgency to ask that every tool be utilized to create a specific data center rate class to protect Ohio energy consumers from future cost increases for electricity capacity implemented by PJM. To be clear, this means that data centers will be a separate rate class from the everyday Ohio consumer. We also request an update as soon as possible on the anticipated process and timeline so we can assure our constituents and continue to monitor what the legislature can and should do in this area.

This is both a political and an economic imperative. If we cannot fully and transparently create a separation of residential and data center costs for our utilities, thousands of jobs and tens of millions of dollars from everyday Ohioans are at risk. Each of the four largest data center companies have publicly offered to pay their fair share. We must create a data center rate class to allow them to begin to do so. Residential consumers will not support continued failure to account for these costs and we will lose the public trust.

The time for action is now. As PJM holds an early auction to secure additional power generation for data centers, it is critical that Ohio is ready to protect other customers from these additional costs. PJM has made clear that all Ohioans will have to pay even

higher rates for the additional power generation unless a separate rate class makes sure it is paid by data centers. [1] This responsibility falls on elected leaders of this state.

The data center industry itself has publicly acknowledged in testimony that they increased capacity requirements by 50%. [2] Others believe their share is much higher. All parties believe that the industry will continue to grow even more rapidly into the future.

While the legislature could have acted through legislation to direct this action, the failure of the majority to bring this forward does not undermine existing authority of the Public Utilities Commission to determine classifications. The statutory authority of the PUCO in this matter is clear. As part of its duties to set rates and oversee the industry, the commission can review and change classifications, [3] determine classifications based on use and other objective considerations, [4] and require utilities to file schedules that include classifications. [5]

This process requires notice and hearing, as it should, so that the rates remain reasonable and just for all ratepayers. That is why it is imperative that this process begin as soon as possible and with great diligence to ensure timely enactment of any decisions. We encourage you to explore executive orders and emergency declarations to support the existing PUCO framework in conducting this work.

The creation of a specific rate class is necessary, but it is not the only step that needs to be taken to ensure that Ohioans are treated fairly and with the transparency they deserve when it comes to economic development and data center growth. Recent revelations about the \$1.5 billion mistake by the Department of Taxation, as well as the previously undisclosed extent of the multi-billion dollar sales tax breaks that have been locked in for decades, will require additional actions by the legislature and regulators alike. Ohio should only provide such enormous economic incentives with the trust and consent of the public.

There is an opportunity for Ohio to pursue the frontier of innovation and economic growth, but only if it clearly benefits our communities, our schools, and our state as a whole. It cannot come at the expense of transparency, the future of our environment, or a tremendous financial cost to already overburdened taxpayers. The path forward is there, but so far our state government has failed to meet the expectations and needs of our citizens.

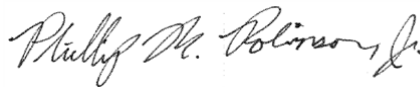
We look forward to your consideration and response in this matter that requires immediate action. We stand ready to work with existing and future administrations to keep Ohio a beacon of innovation where all of our people can flourish.

Sincerely,



Dani Isaacsohn

Minority Leader
24th House District



Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.

Assistant Minority Leader
19th House District



Beryl Brown Piccolantonio

Minority Whip
4th House District



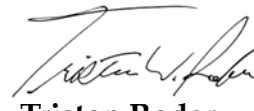
Desiree Tims

Assistant Minority Whip
38th House District



Chris Glassburn

Select Comm. on Data Centers Member
15th House District



Tristan Rader

Energy Committee Ranking Member
13th House District



Munira Abdullahi

State Representative
9th House District



Bride Rose Sweeney

State Representative
16th House District



Terrence Upchurch

State Representative
20th House District

[1] PJM Letter to Member Governor's May 5, 2026 available here:

<https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/about-pjm/who-we-are/public-disclosures/2026/20260520-pjm-board-letter-to-several-govs-re-reliability-backstop-procurement.pdf>

[2] Testimony to the Select Committee on Data Centers, May 27, 2026, Dan Diorio, Data Center Coalition as covered by Gongwer, "Panel reviews data centers' impact on grid, natural resources." https://www.gongwer-oh.com/news/index.cfm?Article_ID=951010202

[3] R.C. 4909.15(E)

[4] R.C. 4905.31

[5] R.C. 4905.30