

February 24, 2026

House Technology & Innovation Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215



Re: HB 646 – Data Center Study Commission

Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Data Center Coalition (DCC), thank you for the opportunity to submit interested party testimony regarding House Bill 646. DCC is the national membership association for the data center industry. Our members include leading data center owners and operators who maintain facilities and teams in Ohio, as well as companies that lease significant data center capacity in the state.

Ohio has emerged as a growing hub for data center development, attracting tens of billions of dollars in private investment to deploy the digital infrastructure that powers today's innovation economy. These investments support the digital backbone for much of the 21st-century economy, including financial services, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, healthcare, essential government services, artificial intelligence, and other key industries.

According to PwC, in 2023 the data center industry supported 84,490 total jobs in Ohio (including 15,300 direct jobs), contributed \$10.6 billion to the state's GDP, and generated an estimated \$931 million in combined state and local tax revenue (\$519 million to the state and \$412 million to local governments).

DCC appreciates the goals of HB 646 and the Committee's interest in better understanding the impacts, opportunities, and challenges associated with Ohio's rapidly growing digital infrastructure footprint. As the Commission undertakes its work, we respectfully recommend it consider how the ongoing implementation of HB 15 is shaping Ohio's broader economic development and energy landscape.

With respect to the Commission's examination of effects on the electrical grid and consumer utility rates, we believe the study scope should reflect not only potential impacts, but also how the industry can play a constructive role in strengthening the broader system—including opportunities beyond behind-the-meter supply to support efficient infrastructure development, improve grid planning transparency, and deliver broader system benefits.

We further recommend that the Commission analyze both the short-term and long-term impacts of the industry, including long-term operational realities, supply chain impacts—such as manufacturers and service providers that support data center development—and the lifecycle economic contributions that characterize modern data center projects. Given the complexity of these issues, we also encourage providing the Commission sufficient time to conduct a thorough and balanced review, similar to comprehensive studies recently undertaken in both Virginia and Washington.

As the Committee evaluates HB 646 and considers the Commission's scope of work, DCC welcomes ongoing dialogue and the opportunity to provide technical and policy context on issues relevant to Ohio's competitiveness and the operational characteristics of modern data center facilities. We are committed to constructive engagement and to helping ensure Ohio remains a competitive destination for long-term, capital-intensive investment that supports job creation, tax base growth, and the broader innovation economy.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Diorio". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Diorio  
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Data Center Coalition  
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