Open Letter on Data Centers from Farmers, Ranchers, Farm and Rural Organizations, and Stakeholders

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Dear National, State, and Local Elected Officials, and Communities affected by Data Centers,

We the undersigned farmers, ranchers, farm and rural organizations, and other community stakeholders, collectively representing millions of people in rural America, issue this urgent call for action to avert the profound and irreversible impacts the rapid proliferation of data centers in hundreds of communities across the nation are already having on the availability and affordability of farmland, the cost of electricity, access to clean water, and the physical and economic health of communities across the country.

These data centers represent an existential threat to our land and water and to an already struggling farm and rural sector. Speculative demand for land has been leading to increasing land prices and squeezing out longtime farmers and ranchers, leading to loss of farms and ranches and prime farmland and small businesses, and making it difficult for new farmers to enter agriculture. Between 2017 and 2022, more than 140,000 farms closed down, and data show this trend continuing, as farm bankruptcy rates rose 46% in 2025.[1,2] Additional pressure from data centers in an already extremely difficult economic landscape, risks hollowing out rural economies and is wreaking havoc on family farmers, farm and food workers, and public health.

Unplanned and unchecked data center development strains water resources, and raises electricity prices. Data centers consume tremendous amounts of water, much of which is lost to evaporation.[3,4] The electricity used by the largest centers equals the amount consumed by 100,000 homes—raising rates for farmers and every ratepayer on the system.[5] This guzzling of resources only exacerbates the current farm crisis, hitting farmers' bottom-lines and squeezing already razor thin profits.[6,7]

Taken together, all of these concerns and clearly documented potential impacts from data center development, threaten the fabric of rural communities; the social and economic interconnections within rural and farming and ranching that determine quality of life for residents. Data center projects that proceed without meaningful and transparent community engagement to address these valid concerns, set conditions for the loss and further consolidation of farmland and for the attrition of community resources, including people.

We urge elected officials at the national, state and local level, and members of communities, to take immediate action, **including implementation of moratoriums,**[8,9] and to halt the approval and construction of data centers until adequate regulations at the local, state and national level

can be enacted to fully protect our farms, our families, our communities, and our health. Further, we urge these officials to immediately remedy concerns and adverse impacts, such as depletion of aquifers and wells, where data centers have already been constructed.

For more information, please contact:

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Sincerely,

National:
AgriSolar Pro
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
American Agriculture Movement
American Sustainable Business Network
Beyond Pesticides
Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment
Center for Oil & Gas Organizing
Climate Justice Alliance
Farm Action
Farm Aid
Indigenous Environmental Network
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.
National Family Farm Coalition
Rural Coalition
Slow Food USA
Third Act
Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance

Regional, State, and Local:
7 Directions of Service | *Mebane, North Carolina*
Action NC RAGE | *Durham, Charlotte, and Fayetteville, North Carolina*
Don Pepe | *Utuado, Puerto Rico*
Extinction Rebellion PDX | *Portland, Oregon*
Farmworker Association of Florida | *Apopka, Florida*
Faun Hosey Farms | *Washington County, Oregon*

Federation of Southern Cooperatives / Land Assistance Fund | *Southern U.S.*
Foothills Group of the North Carolina Sierra Club | *Winston-Salem, North Carolina*
Friends of Hanover | *Hanover, Virginia*
Georgia Conservation Voters | *Atlanta, Georgia*
Green State Solutions | *Iowa City, Iowa*
Haw River Assembly | *Bynum, North Carolina*
HenDew Farms | *Orangeburg, South Carolina*
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement | *Iowa*
Kansas Black Farmers Association | *Nicodemus, Kansas*
Missouri Rural Crisis Center | *Columbia, Missouri*
New Roots Urban Farm | *St. Louis, Missouri*
NC Environmental Justice Network | *Raleigh, North Carolina*
Organización de Lideres Campesinas en California | *Oxford, California*
Pleasant Lake Hardwoods | *Michigan*
Protect PT (Penn-Trafford) | *Harrison City, Pennsylvania*
Rowan County/City of Salisbury for Data Center Accountability | *Salisbury, North Carolina*
Slow Food Phoenix | *Phoenix, Arizona*
Springfield Food Policy Council/40 Acres Farms | *Springfield, Massachusetts*
Stop the Pine Island Data Center | *Pine Island, Minnesota*
Sun Mountain Farms and Sun Mountain 4 Seasons Farmers Market | *Broadview, Montana*
Sunset Tree Farms | *North Plains, Oregon*
Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) | *Iowa*
Tualatin Riverkeepers | *Tualatin, Oregon*
Tucker United | *Davis, West Virginia*
Web of Life Products | *Boulder, Colorado*
West Michigan Environmental Action Council | *Grand Rapids, Michigan*
World Farmers | *Lancaster, Massachusetts*

References:

[1] https://www.fb.org/market-intel/farm-bankruptcies-continued-to-climb-in-2025

[2] https://www.farmaid.org/blog/what-are-americas-family-farmers-up-against-right-now/

[3] https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-centers-and-water-consumption

[4] https://www.lincolninst.edu/publications/land-lines-magazine/articles/land-water-impacts-data-centers/

[5] https://www.lincolninst.edu/publications/land-lines-magazine/articles/land-water-impacts-data-centers/

[6] https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/01/22/stop-data-centers-now-campaign-launch/

[7] https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2025-ai-data-centers-electricity-prices/

[8] https://stateline.org/2026/03/06/temporarily-banning-data-centers-draws-more-interest-from-state-local-officials/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

[9] https://goodjobsfirst.org/data-center-moratorium-bills-are-spreading-in-2026/