



**For immediate release:**

Thursday, June 4, 2026

**For more information:**

Megan Ahearn, [mahearn@nypirg.org](mailto:mahearn@nypirg.org)  
212-349-6460 ext 1166

**NYPIRG APPLAUDS THE PASSAGE OF ONE-YEAR DATA CENTER MORATORIUM**

(Albany, N.Y.) In the final hours of the 2026 legislative session, the state Senate and Assembly approved – with bipartisan support – [S.10642](#) (Gonzalez)/[A.11560](#) (Barrett), the *Responsible Data Center Development Act*. This legislation establishes a one-year pause on new large data center permits (peak demand of 20 MW or more), sets energy efficiency goals, and requires the commencement of an environmental impact review to identify likely environmental and ratepayer impacts from the proliferation of data centers, and propose ways to avoid or mitigate those impacts after the review period.

As a result of their tremendous energy demands, data centers can strain the grid system and divert energy that would otherwise serve other utility users, including residential ratepayers. The construction and use of these data centers is driving up utility rates all across the nation at a time when New York renters, homeowners and small businesses are already struggling to pay outrageously high energy bills. Cost is one concern, another is the myriad environmental and public health impacts: the huge amounts of water used for cooling the banks of digital equipment, the amount of electronic waste produced, and the noise and air pollution generated during round-the-clock operations are all concerning and deserve further study.

This legislation represents a common-sense approach to a major threat to the financial, environmental, and public health of New Yorkers. If signed by Governor Hochul, the bill will be the first statewide data center moratorium in the country.

**The following statement is attributable to Megan Ahearn, NYPIRG Executive Director:**

"NYPIRG applauds the passage of the *Responsible Data Center Development Act* by the state Legislature. Across the country, we are seeing tremendous impacts from the rapid, unregulated explosion of energy-hog AI data centers and New York is right to push the pause button. We are hearing from New Yorkers from Buffalo to Long Island that they're concerned about impacts to their utility bills, the strain on the energy grid, and the environmental threats posed by large-scale data centers. It's prudent to pause to assess what's at stake, create a process for public input, and consider how to mitigate impacts from an emerging threat. This is the very minimum that New Yorkers deserve. We urge the Governor to sign the bill."

-###-