



NYPIRG

NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

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NYPIRG Statement Regarding Governor Hochul's Executive Order Placing a Moratorium on Large Data Centers in New York State

(Albany) Today, Governor Hochul issued an Executive Order placing a 1-year moratorium on the permitting of hyper-scale (50MW or more) data centers in New York State. The Governor's move allows the State more time to review the environmental impacts of these industrial behemoths, and comes amid growing public pushback and a wave of local ordinances restricting the permitting or construction of data centers in municipalities across New York.

The following statement is attributed to **Eric Wood, Senior Environmental Program Coordinator for NYPIRG.**

"We commend the Governor and her "first-in-the-nation" hyper-scale data center moratorium. We are glad to see that the Governor is listening to the loud cries of her constituents as she works to regulate the data center industry. The 1-year moratorium for the largest data centers comes at a critical time, as dozens of proposals have popped up across the state and while summertime utility bills are soaring. The state must work to address energy affordability, while protecting New York's natural resources from being exploited. Hyperscale AI data centers are a threat to both.

The Governor's Executive Order identifies the environment and energy grid threats of large data centers, but several facilities are being proposed that use less than 50MW of maximum grid power. The state must lead the way to regulate this rapidly expanding industry and consider strengthening regulations to ensure that facilities between 5 and 50 MW don't leave the public footing the bill, the environmental harm, and the nuisances that these centers present."