



# Protecting Consumers from Rising Energy Prices

The Power for the People Act

119<sup>th</sup> Congress

House sponsor: Paul Tonko (D-NY)

Senate sponsor: Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

## Data centers—driven by A.I.—are growing rapidly

- Data centers are critical to national security, stimulate economic development, and create good-paying construction, energy, and maintenance and operation jobs
- Rapid adoption of artificial intelligence is fueling the development of data centers
  - **There are currently more than 4,000 data centers in the US**, with new facilities being proposed every day
- A report from the Department of Energy (DOE) found that data center load growth has tripled over the past decade and is projected to double or triple by 2028
- However, the **rapid growth of data centers is also placing an increased burden on our electric grids**, increasing the risk of reliability issues like blackouts and causing energy prices for all electricity customers to increase

## Without action, these centers will hike up costs

- In 2024, the average size of a proposed data center in the US was 300 megawatts (a figure that doubled since 2023). That is the amount of energy needed to power around 240,000 homes.
- A recent report estimates that **55% of new energy demand in the US comes solely from data centers**
  - Load forecasts show **data centers will represent 15% of our national electricity consumption by 2030**
- Without proper backstops, new energy demand from data centers will continue to increase prices

## Our bill tackles data center energy demand!

The Power for the People Act will:

- ❖ Direct FERC to issue a rule to ensure data centers are paying for the local transmission upgrades they require
- ❖ Direct FERC to issue a rule requiring electric grid operators to create a data center load queue
- ❖ **Create a system to manage data center interconnection to the grid** that would prioritize data centers that:
  - bring their own new power generation and battery storage systems to the grid;
  - mitigate pollution; and
  - create good paying jobs
- ❖ Support efforts to improve accurate data center load forecasting