



The rapid development of data centers has prompted concerns throughout Michigan's Sixth District and beyond as communities are left with important questions on the potential impacts of these large-scale projects.

There is a need for clear and enforceable federal guardrails to ensure communities have a meaningful voice in these decisions. That is why I am working to draft a federal data center "Bill of Rights" that ensures communities have a seat at the table, their input is valued, and their voices are heard, and that a number of important factors are considered before these projects are allowed to move forward.

At a minimum, this legislation needs to ensure:

- Large data centers pay for all infrastructure costs, including the cost of energy generation, transmission, and distribution, water, roads, and environmental impacts;
- Residential users of water, electricity, and gas are protected from paying any increased rates related to the development or operation of the data center for the entire operating period of the data center;
- Data center developers disclose and pay for the energy and water demand of their projects and the sources of those resources, and do not pass on utility costs to ratepayers;
- Projects undergo comprehensive environmental review addressing water, air quality, stormwater, wetlands, emissions, backup power, noise pollution, traffic, and more;
- Water use is independently monitored with public reporting and enforceable protections for drinking water, groundwater, rivers, and wetlands;
- Noise pollution is independently measured with enforceable limits;
- Strong labor standards are held throughout each phase of projects, including through prevailing wage requirements and the use of apprentices and local labor;
- Nearby schools and residential areas are protected from noise, pollution, rising utility cost, resource strain, and other disruptions;
- Emergency-response plans are developed with local officials;
- Government officials do not sign non-disclosure agreements preventing communities from understanding the data center projects being built in their communities;
- If projects are cancelled or cease to exist, the developer has the responsibility to discontinue and responsibly manage the wind down of the project without passing costs down to the community;
- Communities have opportunities for meaningful participation, with enforceable community-benefit agreements, for projects being built in their backyards; and

- The roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for all levels of government — federal, state, and local levels — so that the community knows who is accountable at each level and clearly understands the oversight, compliance, and enforcement measures needed to protect our communities, resources, and the environment.

It's very important that those I represent, and other interested communities, have the opportunity to provide feedback on this framework, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments. After receiving input, I will finalize the legislation and introduce it in the U.S. House of Representatives. To provide comment, please email DingellComments@mail.house.gov by October 30, 2026.