



**TESTIMONY FOR SB 299**  
**AAC DATA CENTERS**  
**March 4, 2024**

**To:** Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Steinberg, Vice Chairs Sen. McCrory and Rep. Foster, Ranking Members Sen. Fazio and Rep. Buckbee, Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

**From:** Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to provide general comments on **SB 299** which will require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to evaluate the impact of large data centers on grid reliability.

**CTLCV asks that environmental and climate impacts be part of any study that assesses the impacts of data centers on the regional electric grid.**

Data centers are one of the most energy-intensive building types, consuming 10 to 50 times the energy per floor space of a typical commercial office building.

Collectively, these spaces account for approximately 2% of the total U.S. electricity use, and as our country's use of information technology grows, data center and server energy use are expected to grow. There are concerns that the industry will want 25-50 megawatt diesel generators and would add to the pollution burden of environmental justice communities. All large data servers use water, both directly and indirectly, and the amounts can be substantial. **In 2021**, Legislation was passed as an "Emergency Certification" to incentivize construction of new data centers in CT without a public hearing or any requirements to meet standards that would mitigate energy use, emissions, or water consumption.

There is no longer pressure to provide these incentives, so lawmakers should review and fix the statute to:

- **Prohibit diesel or fossil fuel back-up power to protect environmental justice communities.**
- Require the most energy-efficient servers.
- Require that construction of data centers meet a net-zero, all-electric standard.

- Require that data centers conserve water by requiring air cooled or closed loop water systems.
- Require that buildings be heated with waste heat from the data center, and allow excess heat to be used for thermal energy storage and or community heating needs.
- Require data centers to meet sustainability goals of the municipality in which they are located.

CTL CV hopes to see these suggestions adopted by the Energy and Technology committee to ensure that **any data centers coming into Connecticut must align with our state's climate goals.** Thank you.

CT League of Conservation Voters  
553 Farmington Avenue, Suite 201, Hartford, CT 06105  
ctlcv.org | [ctlcv@ctlcv.org](mailto:ctlcv@ctlcv.org) | 860-236-5442