

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-299

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING DATA CENTERS.

Vote Date: 3/21/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/7/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Introduced by the Energy and Technology Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Data centers have become increasingly important to businesses as technology has further developed. However, before the state of Connecticut can begin establishing data centers, the regional grid system must be analyzed to evaluate if it can handle data centers. Data centers could hurt the grid and Connecticut's ratepayers if they are not developed in a proper way. This bill would require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to conduct a study as to evaluate the impact of large data centers on the grid.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Marissa Gillett, Chairman of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA): PURA submits an informational testimony in which they provided electric load characteristics of large data centers. This testimony notes that data centers have a flat load shape and a high energy footprint, in which they have a load profile that varies with the time of day when shared with commercial operations. Data centers do not have footprints such as electric vehicle equipment or commercial equipment, and it may be of use to study its impact.

Claire E. Coleman, Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC): While the OCC is in support of the bill, they wish to have more clarification on the definition of "large data centers" as defined in line six. Without proper analysis, they are concerned that data centers could strain the grid, which would harm ratepayers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Keith R. Brothers, President of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council and Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut Laborers' District Council: A project labor

agreement (PLA) was signed with a developer for two different data centers. The construction of two data centers would bring many construction jobs for the state of Connecticut, which would greatly increase opportunities.

Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters: The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters believe that all environmental and climate impacts be studied before data centers are constructed in the state.

The following individuals from the Concerned Citizens of Waterford and East Lime CT (CCWEL) support the bill, as it allows time for studies on the Millstone Point project:

Joel Ackerman, Rich Cirillo, Kellie Cirillo, Deborah Colletta, Tina DuBosque, Juanita Durham, Heather Fillion, James Fillion, Sean Fillion, Peg Genung, Dawn Griswold, Suzanne Guida, Denise Hall, Zachary Hannon, Linda Helvig, Charles Hickey, Claudette Hickey, Patricia Hurley, Robert Koladicz, Carol Koladicz, Caryn Kreitzer, Andrew Lassman, Judith Leary, Karen Leary, Rachael Maginess, Mary May, Susan Menghi, Christine Morrissette, Amy Napierala, Lucira Jane Nebelung, Elizabeth Pezzi, Michael Pezzi, Joe Rhodes, Christian Robertson, Art Ryone, Robin Schechtel, Heidi Schmid, Ashley Sebek, Susan Sweet, Joan Treadow, Maria Treichel, Molly Troxell, Elizabeth Viviano, Leanne Welch, Lee Williams, Clare Wurm, Kathleen Pavlick

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Jarvis, Council Representative for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters: Carpenters' work on two of the largest private construction projects, Electric Boat and the New London pier, recently have ended, which has resulted in many members and apprentices being laid off. There are currently no private projects lined up for southeastern Connecticut, but many public projects are lined up. If the construction of data centers were to be private, many opportunities would arise, including more hours and approximately 10,000 jobs for carpenters. Carpenters urge the project to be private, and for that reason oppose this bill.

Tony Sheridan, President, and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut: The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors support the construction of the data centers, and do not want a study to prolong the construction.

Thomas Quinn, Developer Partner of the proposed Compute AI Data Center at the Dominion Energy Site in Waterford, CT: Thomas Quinn expresses that if the bill is voted out of committee, then ratepayers lose, and unions lose. The data centers would be a prosperous opportunity for the state, and the financial benefits would be too important to stall the construction for a study.

Kate Lynch: Opposes this bill as it would add to the noise pollution to Millstone.

The following individuals oppose the bill:

Rick Durham, Patricia DeAngelis, Diane Gent, Geri Johnson-Reis, Andrea Montovani, Meghan Sheehan, Ellen Spalluto, Jennifer Taylor

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS:

Samantha Dynowski, State Director, Sierra Club Connecticut and Stephen Lewis, Chair of the Legislative Committee of Sierra Club Connecticut: The Sierra Club urges that additional issues regarding data centers be suggested, including what impact the data centers have on greenhouse gas reduction targets, the 100% zero-carbon energy target, how much 100% zero-carbon power will be required in order to make data centers, how data center interconnection will impact residential interconnection, and the installation of data centers will impact the state's ability to reach 100% zero carbon for all other consumers. The Sierra Club also notes that the installation of data centers should not impact the progress of solar installation.

Daniel O'Keefe, Commissioner Delegate, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD): The DECD suggests that the state studies ways to support data centers on the grid to leverage their greatest economic benefit, instead of studying their impact on the grid.

Reported by: Abigail Lockwood

Date: April 4th, 2024