



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2026

Media Contact:

Mueller Communications, 414-390-5500

powerwisconsinforward@muellercommunications.com

WISCONSIN RESIDENTS AND CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCATES URGE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO PROTECT RATEPAYERS FROM DATA CENTER COSTS

Testimony at yesterday's public hearings demanded data center developers be held accountable for 100% of infrastructure and energy costs

MILWAUKEE — The following statements were issued today following the [Public Service Commission's](#) (PSC) hearings regarding a proposed special rate structure for "Very Large Customers" ([Docket 6630-TE-113](#)).

Alex Beld, Communications Director, RENEW Wisconsin

"If Wisconsin is going to be the home of many new data centers, we are going to need a lot more energy. We can meet this need, but it shouldn't be a burden for Wisconsin residents to bear. We need to hold these companies to a standard and work with them to craft a solution that protects Wisconsin residents from the harmful effects of expensive fossil fuels. Renewable energy is the most cost-effective way for us to produce clean, reliable energy, and though we would expect big tech to make the best financial decision, we know that doesn't always happen. A promise alone doesn't guarantee that data centers will do what is right for our state or its residents."

- For an interview with Alex Beld, contact: abeld@renewwisconsin.org

Brittany Keyes, Clean Air Policy Manager, Healthy Climate Wisconsin

"Healthy Climate Wisconsin is calling on the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to uphold its mission and protect Wisconsin residents from any energy rate hikes associated with the development of hyperscale data centers. High energy burden is a growing public health issue, and we are already seeing patients and communities across the state struggling with mounting energy bills, threats of shut-offs, and the related negative health consequences. We need the PSC to ensure this Very Large Customer (VLC) rate schedule is strong, protects residents and small businesses, and provides no discounts to data centers."

- For an interview with Brittany Keyes, contact: brittany@healthyclimatewi.org, 815-543-6715

Britnie Remer, Organizing Director, 350 Wisconsin

"The proposal put forth by We Energies is horribly insufficient. In addition to excluding a majority of the hyperscale data center proposals we are seeing in our state, by defining a very large customer (VLC) at a massive 500 MW, not all of the associated costs are covered. Our communities would be on the hook for those uncaptured costs and would be at risk of

being stuck paying for stranded assets, with the current proposal only locking in these special rates for 10 years. We know that the infrastructure being built can last for 30, even 50 years — if this is not the infrastructure that is required otherwise, why are Wisconsin families and small businesses being forced to pay for and take on the risk of these billion-dollar tech companies' projects? The only answer I can think of to that question is that utilities like We Energies and WPS make a high profit on infrastructure by passing the costs onto us through rate hikes. The PSC should reject the proposal put forward by We Energies, make them go back to the drawing board, and require that VLCs like data centers, pay 100% of ALL of the costs for the lifetime of the infrastructure without the choice to opt out.”

- For an interview with Britnie Remer, contact: britnie.remer@350wisconsin.org

Bryan Rogers, Director of The WEBB at Walnut Way

“Let’s call this what it is: a proposed wealth transfer from We Energies’ captive customer base—*all of us*—to multibillion-dollar tech firms, sanctioned by the very regulatory body charged with protecting the public from corporate predation and extraction. If the PSC approves a tariff that leaves even a sliver of room for cost-shifting, We Energies will drive a diesel truck straight through it—and we ratepayers will be footing the bill for decades to come. Households are already drowning in unaffordable energy costs while We Energies hands out millions in executive bonuses funded by those same ratepayers.

This Commission exists to protect the public, not to underwrite Big Tech’s wildly speculative power demand. The PSC has the full authority under the law, ample evidence before it, and a clear obligation to stop this. What Commissioners Strand, Hawkins, and Nieto choose to do in this case will define the Commission’s legacy for generations. The world is watching.”

- For an interview with Bryan Rogers, contact: brogers@walnutway.org, 414-458-1984

Cassie Steiner, Senior Campaign Coordinator, Sierra Club Wisconsin

“This proposal lets Big Tech and We Energies off the hook and instead puts Wisconsinites at risk for picking up the cost to power their massive AI data centers. If Big Tech wants to come to Wisconsin and use our state resources, Wisconsinites deserve to be fully informed and have no risk of incurring the costs from these billion-dollar corporations. It’s simple: Big Tech should pay its fair share. The PSC must implement protections now to keep us from footing the bill.”

- For an interview with Cassie Steiner, contact: Megan Wittman, megan.wittman@sierraclub.org

Cristina Carvajal, Founder and Director, Wisconsin Ecolatinos

“Wisconsin communities bear the burden of poor air quality exacerbated by gas-powered energy plants. It is fundamentally unjust that these same communities should also be financially responsible for subsidizing the massive energy demands of data centers. Data centers should cover all their energy costs and be legally required to adopt and implement on-site renewable energy solutions.”

- For an interview with Cristina Carvajal, contact: cristina_carvajal@wisconsincolatinos.org

Elizabeth Hittman, Associate Director of Policy for Wisconsin, Elevate

"Wisconsin residents are raising their voices to demand investments in clean energy, affordable energy, and protections for our environment. The PSC must account for the full costs of data center infrastructure investments in this proposed tariff, including transmission costs, to ensure families and small businesses don't face even higher energy bills at a time when pocketbooks are already under strain. Wisconsinites shouldn't be footing the bill: multibillion-dollar tech corporations should."

- For an interview with Elizabeth Hittman, contact: elizabeth.hittman@elevatenp.org

Jayne Black, Wisconsin Field Organizer, Moms Clean Air Force

"Moms across Wisconsin want our families protected from the air pollution caused by fossil fuel-powered electricity for data centers. These facilities degrade air quality, threaten our health, drive up electric bills and worsen climate change. We want the Public Service Commission to put the health and well-being of Wisconsinites first—because every family deserves clean air and to not be responsible to pay the bill for data centers which cause more pollution."

- For an interview with Jayne Black, contact: jblack@momscleanairforce.org, 920-857-0085

John Imes, Co-founder & Director, Wisconsin Environmental Initiative

"Clean energy isn't just better for the climate, it's the lowest-cost and lowest-risk option for Wisconsin. Data centers should pay their full cost of service and power growth with clean energy, not leave families and small businesses stuck with decades of gas infrastructure they didn't ask for and can't afford."

- For an interview with John Imes, contact: jimesother@gmail.com

Kat Klawes, Climate Action Policy Coordinator, Citizen Action of Wisconsin

"The choice before the PSC is simple: will Wisconsin families pay for Big Tech's data centers, or will Big Tech pay its own way? These projects could more than double electricity demand and require expensive new power plants, transmission lines, and substations. Ratepayers should not be stuck covering those costs. The Commission must require data centers to pay 100 percent of the electricity and infrastructure costs they create, protect customers for the full life of those investments, bring new clean energy onto the grid, and provide real community benefits so the burden is not shifted onto families who are already struggling with energy costs."

- For an interview with Kat Klawes, contact: kat.klawes@citizenactionwi.org, 920-634-8981

Laura Lane, Wisconsin Director of Outreach, Faith in Place

"Companies, not communities, must bear all costs—including cleanup if facilities shut down. Promises mean nothing without enforcement, and data centers must face real penalties if they break commitments on jobs, energy use, or environmental protection."

What happens in 10 years matters as much as what happens today. We need contingency plans that protect communities if data centers close or fail to deliver on their promises.”

- For an interview with Laura Lane, contact: laura@faithinplace.org, 608-215-0112

Robin Lisowski, Senior Director of Policy, Slipstream

“Wisconsin can accommodate very large energy users without shifting costs onto everyday consumers, but only if tariff structures reflect the true cost of their demand and are developed and applied transparently. We have to get the rules right now to ensure these customers fully cover the infrastructure they require, while supporting clean energy investments that keep rates affordable for everyone and reduce emissions now and into the future.”

- For an interview with Robin Lisowski, contact: rlisowski@slipstreaminc.org

Sarah Zarling, Founder, Citizens Acting for Rail Safety - Watertown, WI

“I continue to find it increasingly frustrating that we are being governed by a system that puts industry over citizens and profits over people. It should be a given that corporations that make millions or billions in profits should have to pay for their projects instead of the regular people who are struggling to provide basic necessities for their families. I believe that this situation exposes inherent flaws in a clearly broken system. I hope this can be an urgent reminder of how vital it is that citizens stay engaged with their local and state government goings-on, and remember that elected officials are working for us. We have a right and a duty to hold them accountable and implore them to put their constituents before corporations.”

- For an interview with Sarah Zarling, contact: sarahzarling21@gmail.com

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ABOUT POWER WISCONSIN FORWARD

Power Wisconsin Forward is organized on the foundational truth that methane gas infrastructure is bad for our people, planet, and pocketbooks. Supported by the Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin (CECW) and its more than 50 partner organizations, the campaign is focused on following the science and educating Wisconsinites and activating change to enable a cleaner energy future for our state that creates jobs, builds energy reliability, and saves people money. Learn more and get involved at www.powerwisconsinforward.com