

Dear Senator Watson and committee members,

First, this bill, which is called the VT Sustainable Data Centers Act seems to imply that data centers are implicitly sustainable, but that seems very much not the case.

In regard to H.727, I encourage you to add a part which would establish a several year moratorium on data centers in our state to give adequate time for evaluating this idea. I feel that allowing data centers in our state would likely raise electric rates for our citizens and could jeopardize our water supplies since data centers use both electricity and water in huge amounts.

From what I've read about AI data centers, these are outsized buildings full of huge numbers of computers which would take up an inordinate amount of electricity, water and land, and are likely to employ only a small number of people in the long run. The experiences in Loudoun County, VA, of the effects of huge data centers there are a case in point: <https://broadbandbreakfast.com/data-center-boom-in-virginias-data-center-alley-raises-infrastructure-concerns/>.

If you think that allowing data centers in our state should be allowed, I urge you to particularly focus on the parts of H.727 which refer to the use of water and of electricity by data centers. The wording about regulating data centers needs to be much more forceful. Please do look at pages 16-18 especially. The wording seems to imply that data centers have to have closed loop water systems, but then the wording adds some "except for" language which I feel weakens the regulation considerably.

I also feel that the huge amount of electricity that such data centers would require may be behind the governor's support for the re-establishment of nuclear power in Vermont and the elimination of legislative authority over new reactors. That push seems to be based on the idea of small modular reactors, none of which have been built in our country at this point and which I believe are just at the research stage..

I feel that at the very least, Vermont needs a several year moratorium on data centers to give legislators, the general public, and towns time to get up to speed as to what these data centers actually are and how they are likely to affect our communities.

I encourage you and the committee to take a long hard look at the possibility of allowing data centers in our state.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rice