



TO: The Honorable PA House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, Vice President, Government Affairs
DATE: September 25, 2023
RE: Oppose H.B. 1476 – Impeding development of data centers

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber urging you to oppose H.B. 1476, which would suspend permitting for power generation to support data centers. This bill is scheduled for committee consideration on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

This legislation would impede development of new data center construction as well as potentially suspend the permitting of additional power generation capacity to the grid. Data center development holds great promise for Pennsylvania businesses to leverage advanced computing and machine learning to more efficiently manage logistics, design new materials and manufacturing processes, and innovate.

By suspending air quality permits for power generation that in any way supports data centers, H.B. 1476 conflicts with state and federal statutes that direct agencies to permit facilities that meet relevant regulatory requirements. The bill as drafted also raises constitutional issues – namely, equal protection and the right to reasonably use private property. Accordingly, we urge a no vote.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.