

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Communications and Technology Committee

FROM: Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: February 4, 2026

RE: **PA Chamber memo: Support S.B. 939 - AI and Data Center Act**

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, representing more than 12,000 employers across all commercial and industrial sectors, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 939, the Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Act. This legislation creates a more coordinated framework for data center development and strengthens Pennsylvania's ability to compete for major investment by improving permitting predictability and modernizing the Commonwealth's approach to emerging technologies.

A key strength of the bill is the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence, Data Center, and Emerging Technology Regulatory Sandbox. This program provides a safe, controlled testing zone where companies can pilot new technologies under real-world conditions with greater flexibility and close oversight. Operating like regulatory training wheels, the sandbox gives innovators room to develop new ideas without compromising consumer protections or accountability. It is a structured, supervised environment that responsibly encourages technological advancement while managing risk.

Senate Bill 939 also boosts Pennsylvania's competitiveness by clearly defining high-impact data centers and ensuring local ordinances treat these facilities consistently with other industrial development. Coupled with a fast-track permitting process, the bill addresses one of the most significant barriers companies face, an unpredictable and lengthy permitting process. By directing the Office of Transformation and Opportunity (OTO) to coordinate agency reviews, establish timelines, maintain a public dashboard, and expedite decisions, the bill provides the predictability needed to attract projects that bring substantial private investment, long-term technical jobs, and significant local tax revenue.

Pennsylvania is well-positioned to compete in these rapidly growing sectors, but inconsistent regulations and permitting delays often hinder our ability to secure large-scale projects. Senate Bill 939 offers a balanced solution: strengthening economic competitiveness, reducing uncertainty, and supporting innovation while preserving important safeguards for consumers and communities. It is for these reasons that the PA Chamber supports Senate Bill 939 and urges its advancement.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Amy Brinton via email at abrinton@pachamber.org or at 717-720-5565 should you have any questions or concerns.

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