

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4214

To impose a moratorium on the construction of new data centers until legislation is enacted that safeguards the public from the dangers of artificial intelligence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2026

Mr. SANDERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To impose a moratorium on the construction of new data centers until legislation is enacted that safeguards the public from the dangers of artificial intelligence.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Artificial Intelligence
5 Data Center Moratorium Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) leading experts and industry leaders have
9 warned about catastrophic consequences from un-

1 checked artificial intelligence development and de-
2 ployment, including—

3 (A) Elon Musk, the wealthiest person alive,
4 and worth \$826,600,000,000 as of the date of
5 introduction of this Act, who stated that “AI
6 and robots will replace all jobs. Working will be
7 optional.” and that artificial intelligence is akin
8 to “summoning the demon”;

9 (B) Dario Amodei, the CEO of Anthropic,
10 who predicted that “AI could displace half of all
11 entry-level white collar jobs in the next 1 to 5
12 years.” and that “humanity is about to be
13 handed almost unimaginable power, and it is
14 deeply unclear whether our social, political, and
15 technological systems possess the maturity to
16 wield it.”;

17 (C) Demis Hassabis, the head of Google’s
18 Deepmind, who stated that the AI revolution
19 will be 10 times bigger than the industrial revo-
20 lution and 10 times faster;

21 (D) Jeff Bezos, the fourth-richest person
22 in the world and worth \$233,000,000,000 as of
23 the date of introduction of this Act, who has re-
24 portedly pushed his staff for years to think big
25 and envision what it would take for Amazon to

1 fully automate its operations with plans to re-
2 place at least 600,000 warehouse workers with
3 robots;

4 (E) Bill Gates, worth \$101,000,000,000 as
5 of the date of introduction of this Act, who pre-
6 dicted that humans “won’t be needed for most
7 things,” such as manufacturing products, deliv-
8 ering packages, or growing food over the next
9 decade due to artificial intelligence;

10 (F) Mustafa Suleyman, the CEO of Micro-
11 soft AI, who said that most white-collar work
12 “will be fully automated by an AI within the
13 next 12 to 18 months”;

14 (G) Jim Farley, the CEO of Ford, who
15 predicted that artificial intelligence will elimi-
16 nate “literally half of all white-collar jobs in the
17 U.S.” within the next decade;

18 (H) Larry Ellison, the sixth-richest person
19 in the world and worth \$203,000,000,000 as of
20 the date of introduction of this Act, who said
21 that there will be an artificial intelligence-pow-
22 ered surveillance state where “citizens will be
23 on their best behavior, because we’re constantly
24 recording and reporting everything that is going
25 on.”;

1 (I) Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, considered to be
2 the “godfather” of artificial intelligence, who
3 stated that he believes there is a “10 to 20 per-
4 cent chance [for artificial intelligence] to wipe
5 us out.”; and

6 (J) Mark Zuckerberg, the fifth-richest per-
7 son in the world and worth \$214,000,000,000
8 as of the date of introduction of this Act, is
9 building a data center in the State of Louisiana
10 that is the size of Manhattan and will use 3
11 times the quantity of electricity that the entire
12 city of New Orleans uses every year; and

13 (2) leading experts and the heads of the major
14 artificial intelligence companies have called for regu-
15 lation and reasonable pauses to the development of
16 artificial intelligence to ensure the safety of human-
17 ity, including—

18 (A) Elon Musk, the head of xAI, who stat-
19 ed—

20 (i) in 2018 the following: “Mark my
21 words. AI is far more dangerous than
22 nukes. So why do we have no regulatory
23 oversight? This is insane.”; and

1 (ii) in 2025 that he had “a lot of AI
2 nightmares” and would “certainly slow
3 down AI and robotics” if he could;

4 (B) Demis Hassabis, the head of Google’s
5 Deepmind, who said in 2026 that he would sup-
6 port an AI pause if he knew other countries
7 and companies also paused development;

8 (C) Dario Amodei, the head of Anthropic,
9 who said in 2026 that he would be “absolutely
10 in favor of trying” to slow down AI develop-
11 ment if other countries also slowed down;

12 (D) Sam Altman, the head of OpenAI,
13 who, in 2023, wrote that “we need some degree
14 of coordination among the leading development
15 efforts to ensure that the development of super-
16 intelligence occurs in a manner that allows us
17 to both maintain safety and help smooth inte-
18 gration of these systems with society” and that
19 “an effective global regulatory framework in-
20 cluding democratic governance” is needed;

21 (E) more than 1,000 business leaders in
22 the Big Tech industry, prominent scientists,
23 and artificial intelligence researchers and aca-
24 demics, including Elon Musk, Steve Wozniak
25 (co-founder of Apple), and Evan Sharp (co-

founder of Pinterest), who, in March 2023, co-signed an open letter entitled “Pause Giant AI Experiments” which stated the following: “We must ask ourselves: Should we let machines flood our information channels with propaganda and untruth? Should we automate away all the jobs, including the fulfilling ones? Should we develop nonhuman minds that might eventually outnumber, outsmart, obsolete and replace us? Should we risk loss of control of our civilization? Such decisions must not be delegated to unelected tech leaders. . . .Therefore, we call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4. This pause should be public and verifiable, and include all key actors. If such a pause cannot be enacted quickly, governments should step in and institute a moratorium.”; and

(F) artificial intelligence pioneers Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio and other technology leaders, who have called for “a prohibition on the development of superintelligence, not lifted before there is broad scientific con-

1 sensus that it will be done safely and
2 controllably, and strong public buy-in”.

3 **SEC. 3. MORATORIUM ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ARTIFI-**
4 **CIAL INTELLIGENCE DATA CENTERS.**

5 (a) DEFINITION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
6 DATA CENTER.—In this section, the term “artificial intel-
7 ligence data center” means all the buildings, equipment,
8 structures, and other stationary items, such as server
9 racks, that—

10 (1) are located on a single site or on contig-
11 uous, adjacent, or otherwise connected sites;

12 (2) are owned or operated by the same entity
13 or by any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is
14 under the common control of that entity, regardless
15 of whether the site is a single-occupant or multi-oc-
16 cupant facility; and

17 (3)(A) are used for the development or oper-
18 ation of artificial intelligence models at scale; or

19 (B)(i) have a maximum rated power capacity or
20 total peak power load in excess of 20 megawatts;
21 and

22 (ii) are designed or equipped—

23 (I) to deliver 20 kilowatts or more of elec-
24 trical power to a single server rack; or

1 (II) to utilize cooling systems that circulate
2 liquid to individual hardware components or
3 submerge electronic hardware in liquid.

4 (b) MORATORIUM.—Beginning on the date of enact-
5 ment of this Act, the construction or upgrading of new
6 or existing artificial intelligence data centers may not com-
7 mence or proceed until—

8 (1) 1 or more laws are enacted that ensure
9 that—

10 (A) the Federal Government shall review
11 and approve artificial intelligence products be-
12 fore those products are released, for the pur-
13 pose of ensuring that those products are safe
14 and effective and do not threaten the health
15 and well-being of working families, privacy and
16 civil rights, and the future of humanity;

17 (B) the economic gains of artificial intel-
18 ligence and robotics will benefit workers, not
19 just the wealthy owners of Big Tech companies,
20 including by—

21 (i) putting policies in place to prevent
22 job displacement due to artificial intel-
23 ligence; and

1 (ii) ensuring the wealth generated by
2 those companies is shared with the people
3 of the United States; and

4 (C) with respect to any artificial intel-
5 ligence data center built or upgraded after the
6 termination of the moratorium under this sub-
7 section—

8 (i) the artificial intelligence data cen-
9 ter does not increase utility or electricity
10 bills of consumers;

11 (ii) the artificial intelligence data cen-
12 ter does not exacerbate the threat of cli-
13 mate change or harm the environment;

14 (iii) communities that would be af-
15 fected by the artificial intelligence data
16 center are empowered to approve or reject
17 the construction or upgrading of that arti-
18 ficial intelligence data center;

19 (iv) no government subsidy is provided
20 for the construction, upgrading, or oper-
21 ation of that artificial intelligence data
22 center; and

23 (v) the artificial intelligence data cen-
24 ter creates union jobs with strong labor
25 standards, including payment of prevailing

1 wages and use of registered apprenticeship
2 programs and project labor agreements;
3 and

4 (2) a provision in the 1 or more laws described
5 in paragraph (1) expressly terminates the morato-
6 rium under this subsection.

7 (c) REPORTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy
9 shall—

10 (A) submit to Congress quarterly reports
11 on artificial intelligence data centers; and

12 (B) make those quarterly reports publicly
13 available on the website of the Department of
14 Energy.

15 (2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted by the
16 Secretary of Energy under paragraph (1) shall in-
17 clude, at a minimum, for the period covered by the
18 report and with respect to each artificial intelligence
19 data center—

20 (A) all financial vehicles involved in the op-
21 eration of the artificial intelligence data center;

22 (B) the water usage of the artificial intel-
23 ligence data center;

24 (C) the energy usage and infrastructure
25 needs of the artificial intelligence data center;

1 (D) the on- and off-site greenhouse gas
2 emissions of the artificial intelligence data cen-
3 ter, including the results of fenceline air quality
4 monitoring;

5 (E) the wastewater discharge and thermal
6 outputs of the artificial intelligence data center;

7 (F) the cooling chemicals used at the arti-
8 ficial intelligence data center;

9 (G) the noise levels at the artificial intel-
10 ligence data center;

11 (H) information on wages and benefits
12 provided to workers at the artificial intelligence
13 data center;

14 (I) the number of temporary and perma-
15 nent jobs created at the artificial intelligence
16 data center;

17 (J) agreements entered into by the artifi-
18 cial intelligence data center relating to land ac-
19 quisitions, utilities, or government entities, if
20 any; and

21 (K) a certification that the artificial intel-
22 ligence data center has not utilized any Federal,
23 State, or local subsidies.

24 (3) VERIFICATION.—The Secretary of Energy
25 may obtain and verify information relating to the

1 moratorium under subsection (b) and reporting re-
 2 quirements described in paragraph (2), including
 3 by—

- 4 (A) issuing subpoenas;
- 5 (B) requiring written interrogatories;
- 6 (C) conducting inspections; and
- 7 (D) conditioning future permitting on com-
 8 pliance with this section.

9 **SEC. 4. EXPORT CONTROLS ON COMPUTING INFRASTRUC-**
 10 **TURE HARDWARE.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE HARD-
 13 WARE.—The term “computing infrastructure hard-
 14 ware” means semiconductors, integrated circuits,
 15 and products containing integrated circuits, includ-
 16 ing computers, networking equipment, and data
 17 storage systems.

18 (2) EXPORT; IN-COUNTRY TRANSFER; REEX-
 19 PORT.—The terms “export”, “in-country transfer”,
 20 and “reexport” have the meanings given those terms
 21 in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act
 22 of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

23 (b) EXPORT CONTROLS.—On and after the date of
 24 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce
 25 shall prohibit the export, reexport, or in-country transfer

1 of computing infrastructure hardware for an end-use de-
2 scribed in subsection (c)—

3 (1) to or in any country that does not have in
4 effect statutes or regulations that are comparable to
5 the laws described in section 3(b)(1); or

6 (2) to any person in a country described in
7 paragraph (1).

8 (c) END-USES DESCRIBED.—An end-use referred to
9 in subsection (b) is use—

10 (1) in an artificial intelligence data center; or

11 (2) otherwise in the training or deployment of
12 artificial intelligence models at scale.

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