Alaska Association of Student Governments
Executive Board Resolution #1

Support for the Reintroduction and Passage of Legislation Regulating Data Center Construction and Operations in Alaska (SB 250)

Submitted by: Alaska Association of Student Governments Executive Board

Submitted on: September 26, 2026

Be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the legislative reintroduction and passage of Senate Bill 250 or equivalent legislation in the 35th Alaska State Legislature.

1. **Whereas,** the rapid expansion of energy-intensive data centers has placed massive demand on local electrical grids, natural gas supplies, and municipal water infrastructure across America[3];
2. **Whereas**, a report from the U.S Department of Energy Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory states that data centers, as of 2023, use 4.4 percent of total U.S. electricity consumption;[4]
3. **Whereas,** U.S. electricity consumption from data centers is expected to grow to between 6.7 and 12 percent by 2028[4];
4. **Whereas**, the 2023 water consumption by data centers in the United States is estimated at roughly 17.5 billion gallons, which translates to about 0.3 percent of the total public water supply for the contiguous United States.[5]
5. **Whereas,** this same report projects that U.S. data centers' water consumption could double or even quadruple by 2028[5];
6. **Whereas**, Alaska residents pay an average residential electricity rate of 28.21¢ to 28.83¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which translates to an average monthly electricity bill of about $163.[6]

7. **Whereas,** this makes Alaska's electricity rates roughly 50% to 60% higher than the national average[6];
8. **Whereas**, placing additional strain on local utilities without regulatory guidelines risks driving up baseline costs and accelerating regional energy shortages on Alaska's power grids;
9. **Whereas,** Senate Bill (SB) 250 established protections for grid systems by requiring data center developers to cover the infrastructure costs required to connect large-scale facilities to preexisting energy grids[1,2];
10. **Whereas** SB 250 outlined that a municipality shall enter into a community benefit agreement before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska approves a contract for electric or gas utility, and before construction of the data center begins.[13]
11. **Whereas**, the terms set by the municipality may also address any community benefits wanted related to the data center based on the municipality's unique needs, including emergency response, local hire, and any other concerns and priorities of the municipality[13];
12. **Whereas**, Alaska has a rich history of land protections.
    a. As early as 1971, Alaska had already begun putting land in the hands of everyday Alaskans via the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act which gave 44 million acres of land to Native Americans;[7, 8]
    b. By 1980, Alaska had set aside roughly a 4th of all its land for protection and preservation, which is roughly 100 million acres set aside to prevent damage to Alaska's environment;[7]
    c. Alaska has also designated 8 sites as national parks and has the 2nd largest number of national parks out of all the states, which accounts for over an eighth of all national parks in America;[9]
13. **Whereas,** aspects of SB 250, such as the required decommissioning and recycling plan and, regulations on waste heat ensure that environmental impacts are kept to a minimum;[2]
14. **Whereas,** the Sponsor Statement of Senate Bill 250 summarizes its position by stating: “SB 250 recognizes the impacts that data centers can have and balances the benefits of new investment with community and ratepayer protections”[1];
15. **Whereas,** Senate Bill 250 passed the Alaska State Senate on May 16, 2026, by a vote of 14 to 5, but stalled in the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee without receiving a vote on the House floor prior to the adjournment of the 34th Alaska State Legislature[11,12];

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the legislative reintroduction and passage of Senate Bill 250 or equivalent legislation in the 35th Alaska State Legislature to establish regulations on the development of large-scale data center development in Alaska.

Action Statement: If passed by the AASG General Assembly, this resolution will be sent to the Alaska State Legislature, the Office of the Governor, and the Alaska State Board of Education for their consideration.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent.

Sarah Todd

AASG Vice President, Sarah Todd

Kassandra Mirosh

AASG Executive Director, Kassandra Mirosh

Sources:

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4. "Berkeley Lab Report Evaluates Increase in Electricity Demand From Data Centers." *Berkeley Lab News Center*, 15 Jan. 2025, https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2025/01/15/berkeley-lab-report-evaluates-increase-in-electricity-demand-from-data-centers/.
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6. "EIA - Electricity Data." *Eia.Gov*, 2024, https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a.
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9. *National Park Trips*, 1 Jan. 2021, https://www.nationalparktrips.com/parks/us-national-parks-by-state-list/.
10. "What We Do (U.S. National Park Service)." *Nps.Gov*, 20 Oct. 2023, https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/index.htm.
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    https://legiscan.com/AK/bill/SB250/2025.Accessed 16 Sept. 2026.

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13. *Akleg.Gov*, 2025, https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Text/34?Hsid=SB0250B.