

David Zachow
Surry
LD 307

I serve on the ERAC representing Versant Customers. Most working class Mainers are struggling to pay for the rising prices of everything from groceries to rent to car payments AND electricity. And there seems to be no end in sight to these electric rate increases.

LD307 provides for the creation of a Council to review the effects of private data center build out on the Maine electricity grid and make recommendations on policy to protect residential ratepayers from rate increases due increased electrical demand from those privately owned data centers.

At this very moment PJM, the largest regional RTO in the United States is struggling to supply enough electricity to ordinary residential customers at affordable rates due to the unprecedented build out of private data centers in Virginia using every Kilowatt available. And that means new rate increases.

The creation of this Council will help to protect regular working class Mainers from unjustified rate increases due to future data center demands and LD. 307 should be passed out of the EUT to be voted on by the Legislature.

However, even if the Council is created, it will not publish its first strategy report until February 2027, over a year from now. The EUT should do what ever is necessary to enact a MORATORIUM on private data center build outs until the issues surrounding electrical (and cooling water) usage are better understood.

An independent Council is needed in order to protect working class Mainers from yet another unnecessary rate increase. And a MORATORIUM on private data center build out is also needed until the effects on electrical demand are better understood.

Thank you.