Kat Taylor Testimony in support of LD 307 *Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council*

Good Afternoon Esteemed Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technologies Committee,

My name is Kat Taylor and I am a resident and property owner in Argyle Twp., an unorganized township located about 20 miles north of Bangor. As a former Information Technologies professional I am testifying today in support of LD 307 which seeks to provide planning and appropriate site evaluation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centers, also known as Large Load Users.

As others have testified I feel the council should address other large load users that include, but not be limited to, data centers serving as Training AI, AI Servers, Cryptocurrency, Data Mining, Edge Computing, Web Services, Cloud Storage, Streaming Services, among a few, which fall under the energy and technology umbrella.

To include different types of large load users at the start avoids lengthy "Whack-a-mole" adjustments later on in defining any technology that will impact energy, water, broadband, the environment, and economic development.

There is currently a push for a [nationwide moratorium on data center construction](#) due to concerns about their **environmental impact, including high energy consumption and water usage**. Over 230 environmental organizations have called for this pause until adequate regulations are established to protect communities and resources.

Rather than halt all data center development while the Council develops a strategy and guidelines I recommend a hold on any new Memorandums of Understanding or permitting with one exception.

The **Training AI Center planned for Loring Air Force Base could be allowed to go ahead as a case study in cooperation with the Council** to design a model site using renewable energy on the 9,000 acre AFB campus. Training AI Centers are the most resource intensive and provide a high benchmark for lesser large load users which would follow standards established by the Council.

Data Center developers are desperate for locations suitable and supportive. However, other states are realizing that they can get more than the few jobs and tax revenue if they welcome data centers in.

Bring Your Own Power is one requirement other states have mandated. In addition to supplying all of the center's needs, they could overbuild by 25% and create a community owned Virtual Power Plant to supply additional revenue and cheap power to host communities.

Job Training in Data Center Deployment and Operations could also be a requirement to offset minimal non-tech job offerings. Training for Energy Infrastructure in solar, wind, geothermal and battery storage should also be considered as a Good Neighbor (Community Benefit) contract in addition to sharing the cost of construction and public works on the campus and in the host community adding value to the contract.

I am only touching on the negative impacts we have all heard about concerning data centers and will go deeper in my public comments as the Council holds stakeholder meetings.
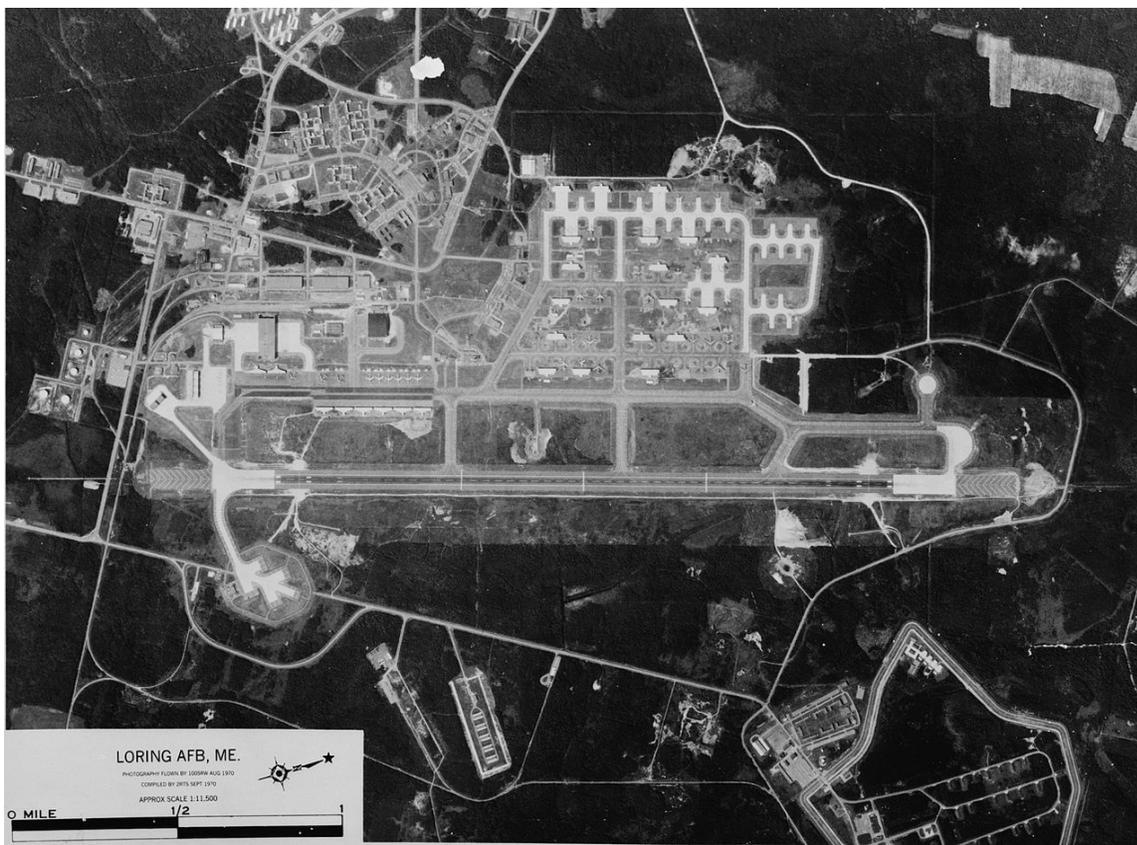
The Council could position itself as facilitator between the various state energy agencies, departments and quasi-governmental entities collaborating with Loring for building a new technology and green energy future for Mainers.

Respectfully,

Kat Taylor
Argyle Twp.

Impact: Site Location Suitability

Loring Air Force Base

LORING AFB, ME.
PHOTOGRAPHY FLOWN BY 1005RW AUG 1970
COMPILED BY 2RTS SEPT 1970
APPROX SCALE 1:11,500

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Ownership

Loring Air Force Base, which closed in 1994, is now primarily owned and managed by the **Loring Development Authority**. This **state-funded agency** oversees most of the former military facility and has developed it into the **Loring Commerce Centre**, an Industrial and Aviation Park.

Loring Development Authority of Maine established

> *"The Loring Development Authority of Maine is established as a body corporate and politic and a public instrumentality of the State to carry out the provisions of this article and shall take title, acquire and manage the properties within the geographical boundaries of Loring Air Force Base in the name of the State."*

Current Management

- Loring Development Authority:
    - Owns and maintains the majority of the former base.
    - Focuses on redevelopment and economic growth in the area.

Key Developments

The base's transformation from a military installation to a commercial hub reflects ongoing efforts to revitalize the area and attract new businesses.

- Green 4 Maine: Recently acquired a sizable parcel of land at Loring, planning to create commercial and industrial spaces.
- Loring International Airport: Operated as a public airport, it is part of the Loring Commerce Centre
- **Loring Data Center**
    - Maine's first **large-scale 115,000 square foot AI Data Center** is being developed at the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone. This facility is part of a broader initiative to revitalize the area and promote green technology.

Future Prospects

This data center is expected to be the **first in a series of facilities at the site**, **contributing to the growth of Maine's data center market** and **supporting advancements in AI and quantum computing technologies**.

Impact: Water Usage

Loring LiquidCool Data Center LLC utilizes **advanced liquid-cooling technology**, specifically immersion cooling, which submerges components in a non-conductive fluid to manage heat.

Impact: Environment

The project aims to be environmentally friendly, using renewable energy and innovative cooling methods. However, there are concerns regarding its **impact on local utility rates and the surrounding environment, particularly as it borders indigenous land and a national wildlife refuge**.

Loring AFB is also a [Superfund](#) site.

Impact: Energy

Loring is in the Northern Maine Independent Systems Administrator ([NMISA](#)) district which may be more flexible in energy allocation than ISO-NE.
The [NECEC corridor recently stopped exporting energy to New England](#) as promised, and started importing energy to Canada instead, despite having to pay penalties.

The days of cheap energy from Canada are coming to an end as they expand electrification while facing diminishing reserves in natural gas and stagnation in hydroelectric. **Northern Maine could provide that energy through wind, solar and geothermal with much less impact, and opposition, than transmission to the south.** At some point, instead of running transmission corridors hundreds of miles to the south we should look to the North and East to export surplus energy.

As you may know, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has [ordered the PJM Interconnection](#) to develop rules for **colocating data centers and other large loads at power plants.**

> *""We view this order as a strong signal of FERC's position on the data center vs. affordability narrative, with the commission, **rather than impeding AI development, likely to focus on avenues for relief for rising electricity costs, such as changes to capacity accreditation, fast-tracking new, high-capacity resources, and transferring costs from load to renewable generators,"** Josh Price, Capstone director, and Hannah Rogers, senior associate, said in a client note."*

To date there are no large load data centers in Maine which gives our state an edge in developing policy using a real world project already in place before inadequate rules cause detrimental impacts.

[TotalEnergies to provide solar power to Google's Texas data centres](#)
By Reuters
February 9, 20263:31 AM EST
Updated February 9, 2026

[Former Cold War Air Base in Maine Could Become State's First Major Green Data Center](#)

November 27, 2025

> *"The ambitious project would establish a massive server farm across 450 acres of the sprawling Limestone, Maine site, which once served as a strategic Cold War outpost. Developers are promoting the facility as a model of sustainable technology, promising to power operations with hydroelectric energy and employ innovative cooling systems to reduce environmental impact. The proposal represents part of a broader vision to reimagine portions of the former military base as a green technology hub."*

Initial capacity of 2 to 6 megawatts. Potential expansion up to 50 megawatts as demand increases. The site has access to **50MW of power from hydropower sources in New Brunswick, Canada**, enhancing its capacity for data operations.

Loring has **solar** generation with room for more. Loring is also very suitable for **wind**, utility scale battery storage such as the **Form Energy project in Lincoln**, and **geothermal** energy as well. Any Large Load User on the campus, plus the surrounding areas, could use onsite energy generation and storage to prevent impacts on local energy prices or dependence on imported natural gas and hydroelectric. Eventually, energy generation could grow to the level of exporting surplus.

Impact: Broadband

Internet Access at Loring Air Force Base
Loring Air Force Base, now known as the Loring Commerce Center, has access to fiber infrastructure provided by FirstLight, which operates a network in the area.

This includes services for data centers being developed at the site, indicating that internet access is available for businesses and facilities there.

The Loring Commerce Center has been **repurposed into a data center park, which includes plans for advanced internet infrastructure.**

Fiber Infrastructure

- **Provider**: FirstLight is the primary internet service provider for the area.
- **Network**: FirstLight operates a **25,000-route-mile fiber network across six states, including Maine.**
- **Local Coverage**: The fiber network is densely clustered around major cities like Portland and Brunswick, with **specific infrastructure at the former base.**

This combination of fiber infrastructure and power supply positions Loring Air Force Base as a promising site for data center operations.