

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Good Afternoon members of the Taxation 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 713 - An Act to Exclude Data Centers from the Business Equipment Tax Exemption and Dirigo Business Incentives Programs and to Require the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development to Study Financial Incentives for Data Centers.**

Since Taxation may not be privy to the bills that have gone through the EUT committee this year, I think it would be helpful to have some background on what has transpired so far.

So, as part of my testimony today I am resubmitting my testimony on **LD 307 Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council (OTP)** since I have been following Artificial Intelligence matters and have submitted multiple testimonies to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee on this subject.

There is no need to offer tax breaks or incentives for data center development since AI and Hyperscale data center developers have very deep pockets and have spent trillions of dollars trying to advance their technology. Money is not a problem for them and tax incentives do not have any affect on their siting decisions. (See "*Kat Taylor LD 713 Data Center Tax Incentives Supplemental Testimony.pdf*")

However, I do not believe **LD 713** goes far enough in excluding data centers from tax incentives; the committee should consider amending the bill to include **Large Load Tariffs** as many other states have done or are in the processing of developing.

The links below explain the necessity of enacting such tariffs to stem the flood of data center, and other large load, development that has outpaced our energy sector's ability to keep current:

[How states are trying to keep AI data centers off your power bill](https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/data-centers/how-states-are-trying-keep-ai-off?amp%3Butm_medium=email&%3Butm_campaign=canary&_hsmi=406898848&utm_source=newsletter)

https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/data-centers/how-states-are-trying-keep-ai-off?amp%3Butm_medium=email&%3Butm_campaign=canary&_hsmi=406898848&utm_source=newsletter

4 March 2026

"Large load tariffs" are spreading fast as states scramble to protect consumers and the climate from the AI boom. Some approaches have more promise than others.

These efforts are largely trying to solve the same problem: The explosive growth of AI data centers is outpacing utilities' ability to build power plants and upgrade the grid. If data centers don't show up and stick around to buy all the power that's

justifying those investments, other customers could be trapped paying them off for decades to come.

This article covers a database that tracks states that have already enacted such tariffs:

[DELTA Navigates New Challenges for Large Electric Loads](https://nccleantech.ncsu.edu/2025/11/18/delta-navigates-new-challenges-for-large-electric-loads/)

<https://nccleantech.ncsu.edu/2025/11/18/delta-navigates-new-challenges-for-large-electric-loads/>

11.18.2025

The U.S. has seen an increase in electricity consumption over the past few years as demand continues to rise with the expansion of data centers, manufacturing, and industrial electrification. Utilities, energy regulators, policymakers, and other stakeholders are looking for new ways to forecast growth, plan for infrastructure, and ease customer expectations. Many entities are changing or creating new tariffs for large-load customers to help manage increasing costs while meeting goals for economic development, energy affordability, and clean energy.

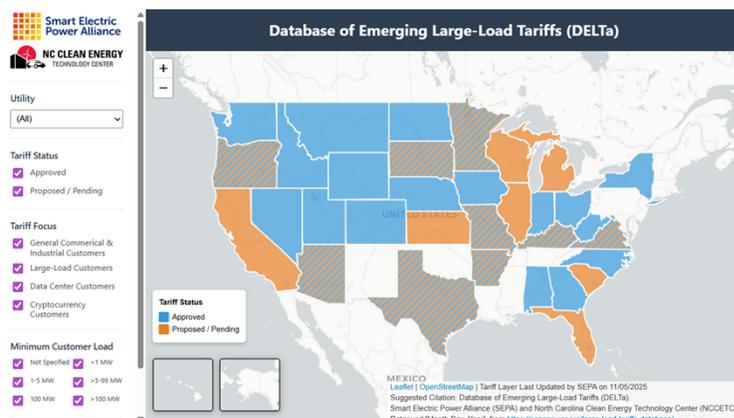
The database:

[Database of Emerging Large-Load Tariffs \(DELTA\)](https://sepapower.org/large-load-tariffs-database/)

<https://sepapower.org/large-load-tariffs-database/>

Electricity tariffs – utilities’ rates and contracts with their customers – are a key tool for managing the costs and uncertainties that come with serving large, new customers.

Explore this comprehensive map of 60+ tariffs designed to help plan for load growth, fairly distribute costs and benefits, and support local policy objectives in the United States. Download the full database using the form below the map.



As you can see from this screenshot, many states have already enacted these tariffs with the Northeast as an area that is falling behind in protecting our ratepayers from incurring higher energy costs. New York is the only state so far that has the foresight to avoid problems before they happen.

Our rising energy costs show Mainers the outcome of poorly thought out energy development. We need to pump the brakes on predatory developers that seek to find any uninformed, and unprepared, state before federal regulations kick in.

With so many states and municipalities enacting ordinances and regulations constraining data center development, Maine has little to fear from losing out on the benefits of attracting developers to our state. **We have what many states do not have: affordable land, existing empty buildings and infrastructure, and a supportive workforce.**

We should not let the promises of fast money, or threats of losing out due to delays, from those who would take advantage of our failure to keep pace with other states. If done right, we can allow this type of development in to the benefit of our failing infrastructure without overburdening tax or ratepayers.

Also, please support **LD 307 Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council** when it comes before you for a vote. Combined with LD 713 we can safely create a sensible framework to allow data center development that is profitable, yet not paid for by ratepayers or taxpayers.

After hearing the testimony on LD 713 I have some recommendations.

- Please consider **changing the title to replace “Data Centers” with “Large Load Users”**. This would eliminate the issue of “winners and losers” by **encompassing any development** that would **significantly impact resources**.
- Please review LD 307. **Taxation should be represented on the Data Center Council**. Given the complexity of tax incentives and their repercussions, we need tax experts on the Council to successfully inform decision makers on how best to determine and implement incentives.
- Please read “**Kat Taylor LD 713 Data Center Tax Incentives Supplemental Testimony**”, AKA: “**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DATA CENTERS COME TO TOWN?**”, to learn how **tax breaks and other financial incentives can have negative impacts** on municipal and state tax revenue while having little to no influence in attracting data centers, or other large load users. The submitted copy has sections on taxes and the impacts tax incentives and breaks have on local revenue **highlighted in Green**.
- **Please consider Large Load Tariffs** as other state have done or in the process of doing. We have the chance *now* to avoid poorly thought out plans and bills that have put us in the energy crisis we have today. We have to avoid investing in infrastructure to accommodate large load users who can pull out and leave Maine taxpayers holding the bag.

Please vote OTP on LD 713 and amend it after considering the above recommendations.

Respectfully,

Kat Taylor
Argyle Twp.