Cheri Senator - Steinmetz <cheri.steinmetz@wyoleg.gov> 6/4/2026 12:43 PM

FW: Request to Poll Legislators Regarding Potential Special Session on Data Center Policy

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From: Senator - Steinmetz, Cheri <Cheri.Steinmetz@WYOLEG.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 10:54 AM
To: LSO - Matt Obrecht <Matt.Obrecht@wyoleg.gov>; Representative - Neiman, Chip <Chip.Neiman@WYOLEG.GOV>; Senator - Biteman, Bo <Bo.Biteman@WYOLEG.GOV>
Cc: All Legislators <All.Legislators@WYOLEG.GOV>
Subject: Request to Poll Legislators Regarding Potential Special Session on Data Center Policy

Dear Director Obrecht, Speaker Neiman, President Biteman,

I am requesting a poll of members of the House and Senate regarding support for a special session focused solely on data centers, large industrial electrical loads, water resources, electric grid impacts, and associated infrastructure concerns.

Governor Gordon's recent executive order, combined with the increasing number and scale of data center proposals being discussed across Wyoming, raises significant policy questions.

Several interim committees are already studying portions of these issues. However, the pace of development and the Governor's executive action suggest the Legislature should determine whether existing statutes provide adequate safeguards or whether additional legislative action may be warranted before major projects move forward.

I would appreciate leadership gauging member interest in a special session. Areas of potential consideration could include:

- Protection of Wyoming water resources, groundwater supplies, and static water levels;
- Large-load electrical service requirements, electric reliability, and ratepayer protections;
- Cost responsibility for generation, transmission, substations, and infrastructure upgrades;
- Agricultural, industrial, and municipal water-use protections;
- Property rights and due process protections for affected landowners, water-right holders, and local governments;
- Bonding, remediation, and financial assurance requirements for project-related damages;
- Economic-benefit standards, transparency requirements, and reporting obligations for large-scale industrial developments;
- Local government, transportation, public safety, housing, and infrastructure impacts; and
- Legislative oversight of projects with significant statewide impacts.

- Reported health concerns to humans, wildlife and livestock

This request is not directed at any specific project or company. Rather, it is intended to ensure that Wyoming's elected representatives and citizens have an opportunity to evaluate whether existing law adequately protects Wyoming. It is important that development serve Wyoming rather then the opposite.

Unlike many policy issues that affect only a particular industry, region, or constituency, this issue has the potential to affect every Wyoming citizen and nearly every aspect of life in our state.

Given the magnitude of these issues and their potential impact on Wyoming for generations to come, I believe it would be prudent to determine where members of the Legislature stand regarding possible additional action. If support exists, I would welcome the opportunity to work with leadership and interested members to identify potential policy solutions for Wyoming. We owe due diligence to our constituents and all Wyoming citizens.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully,

Senator Cheri Steinmetz

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