



April 24, 2024

Dear Governor Kemp,

We respectfully ask for your support and signature on HB 1192. Our organizations—Environment Georgia, Science for Georgia, Dogwood Alliance, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, Southern Environmental Law Center, Georgia Wand, Georgia River Network, Georgia Conservation Voters, and the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, all work to promote a healthy, sustainable and affordable Georgia and applaud the forward thinking study of data centers, their energy use, and their impact on Georgia that is outlined in HB 1192.

As you likely know, Georgia already has more than 50 data centers operated by or for major companies like AT&T, Google, Facebook, and UPS¹. Often these data centers use large amounts of energy and water. For example, the QTS data center in Atlanta advertises its planned capacity at 278 MW.² This demand, driven by one data center, could power roughly 278,000 homes.

In Georgia this increased energy and water demand raises major concerns. The first is the impact increased demand will have on the pocket books of average Georgians. Georgia Power customers have seen steady increases in their bills in recent years³ and there is no guarantee that data centers will shoulder expanded electricity demand alone.

Second, increased demand leads to energy generation decisions that have major impacts on Georgia's natural resources. This month the Georgia Public Service Commission approved of a plan⁴ that will import fossil fuel-fired energy from out of state and build new fossil fuel capacity at an existing power plant. This increased reliance on fossil fuels will harm our air quality and increase carbon emissions.

Finally, data centers require water to cool servers and other computing equipment. In Georgia, data centers typically rely on city or county water departments or authorities to deliver treated

¹ "Data Centers in Georgia," Georgia Department of Economic Development. Accessed April 19, 2024, <https://www.georgia.org/data-centers-georgia>

² "Atlanta Data Center Campus," QTS Data Centers. Accessed April 18, 2024. <https://qtsdatacenters.com/data-centers/atlanta>

³ Amy, Jeff, "Utility Commission Gives Georgia Power the OK for a 12% Rate Increase Starting in June," US News and World Reports. May 16, 2023.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/georgia/articles/2023-05-16/georgia-public-service-commission-n-approves-12-increase-in-georgia-power-bills-starting-in-june>

⁴ Kann, Drew, "Georgia Power gets green light to add more fossil fuels, batteries," Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 16, 2024. .

<https://www.ajc.com/news/business/georgia-power-gets-the-green-light-to-add-fossil-fuels-batteries-to-meet-data-center-demand/PU2WV6NPNB5NAG6UY3LDKDPEA/>

drinking water. But how much water facilities use is difficult to know because there is no required reporting, self-reporting is inconsistent, and the actual facilities vary in size and capacity, therefore resulting in different energy and water demands. One source suggests a range of 7 million gallons of water per year for smaller facilities to as much as 200 million gallons per year for a single 100 megawatt data center. On the higher end, a large data center could use between 500,000 gallons and 1 million gallons per day.⁵

By signing HB 1192 you will move forward reasonable steps that will help Georgia understand and plan for the large environmental and financial impacts data centers bring to our state. If you have further questions please reach out to Jennette Gayer at jennette@environmentgeorgia.org or 404-370-1764.

Thank you again for your time and your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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⁵ Zhang, Mary, "Data center water usage: A comprehensive guide," Dgtl Infra Real Estate 2.0. April 19, 2024.

