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January 13, 2026

The Honorable Shannon Zimmerman
Room 324 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

RE: TechNet opposition to data center regulation bill, AB 840

Dear Representative Shannon Zimmerman,

I write on behalf of TechNet respectfully in opposition to AB 840 as written. As we have done in the past, we welcome the opportunity to work with your office on tech policy matters – including data center legislation.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of American innovation by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes 100 dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

TechNet and its members support ratepayer protection policies. All large energy users, including data centers, should be obligated to pay for the energy they use so other customers aren't paying their costs. A guiding principle for the industry is that the data centers pay their share of grid and power costs.

The electricity sector is heavily regulated under a framework to protect all customers from cost-shifting. We recognize there this construct may need to be modernized given the growing energy needs from large energy users, like data centers. That is why many data center companies support policies that ensure all large energy users, like data centers and manufacturers, pay for any costs they create, so other customers don't have to cover those expenses. These often come in the form of large load tariffs. To the extent this bill is trying to prevent cost-shifting, we would welcome a conversation with the legislature and utilities on large load tariffs and how they have been implemented in other states.

Further, we believe that policies should focus on how much energy is being used--not the type of the industry--to ensure robust and long-term policy solutions. No

one customer type should be singled out as data centers users are only one type of large user of electricity.

Additionally, AB 840 includes provisions requiring data centers to host on-site renewable energy facilities. However, the site selection and eventual development of a data center is, like many development types, a complex process. Many factors, such as energy, water, siting/land use, environmental, and fiscal considerations come into play when choosing a community to ultimately locate. We have concerns regarding the practical impacts of requiring on-site renewable energy facilities to be located at the data center location (or location of any other large energy user).

In a period where energy affordability is a real concern, we should be pursuing policies that lower costs while protecting ratepayers. Limiting renewable options and forcing on-site generation is not the solution when we should be encouraging innovation and growth.

Furthermore, the bill would seemingly apply to all data centers regardless of size. We believe further clarification is needed which would not place burdens on every data center in the state. An option would be to apply this to new sources or to bitcoin mining for example.

Given the scale and complexity of the issues addressed in AB 840, we respectfully urge the Committee to slow the legislative process to allow for full and meaningful stakeholder engagement. This proposal has significant implications for many stakeholders, yet many affected parties have not had adequate opportunity to review the bill or provide input. Additional time would allow the Committee to evaluate economic and grid-reliability impacts, and consider potential unintended consequences before moving forward. A deliberate process will help ensure any final legislation is balanced, technically sound, and in the best interests of Wisconsin residents and businesses.

If you have any questions regarding TechNet's concerns, please contact me at tdiers@technet.org or 630-400-3439.

Sincerely,



Tyler Diers
Executive Director, Midwest
TechNet

CC: Members, Assembly Committee on State Affairs