

A CALL FOR A DATA CENTER HEALTH PROTECTION PLEDGE

Joint Statement from National Health, Consumer & Environmental Organizations

September 30, 2026

The rapid growth of AI and data centers is driving major new development and placing new demands on infrastructure and public systems across the country. It also raises an important question: who pays the costs associated with that growth?

Our organizations share a common concern: **families and communities should not be left to bear avoidable costs from the buildout.**

Much of the current policy discussion has focused on protecting consumers from higher electricity bills. But families can also face significant costs from the health effects of additional pollution associated with powering and operating data centers, including higher health care costs, missed work and school, and impacts on quality of life.

These impacts deserve serious attention as well. Policymakers should understand and account for the public health consequences of data center growth as decisions are made about where data centers are located, how they are powered, and how pollution is managed.

That is why we are calling on the Administration to develop a Data Center Health Protection Pledge: a commitment to identify, evaluate, and address the public health costs associated with data center growth, just as policymakers are working to protect families from higher electricity bills.

Following the model of the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, federal leaders should work with technology companies, data center developers, electric utilities, states, local governments, and other stakeholders to develop the pledge and secure broad support for it.

Once the pledge is developed, we also urge Congress to take the steps needed to support it and protect families and communities from avoidable health costs and impacts associated with data center growth.

As data center development accelerates, protecting Americans from avoidable health costs should be part of the national response from the start.

Signatories:

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Children's Environmental Health Network

Consumer Federation of America
Environmental Protection Network
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of our low-income clients
National Consumers League
Physicians for Social Responsibility