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April 8, 2026

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Dustin Burrows
Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Re: Data Center Development and Impacts on Texas Natural Resources and Rural Communities

Dear Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Speaker Burrows:

On behalf of the Texas Farm Bureau and our more than 470,000 member families across rural Texas, we write to express our appreciation for your leadership and to share our perspective on the rapid expansion of large-scale data centers across the state.

Texas Farm Bureau thanks Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Speaker Burrows for recognizing the importance of this issue and for including data center development and its associated impacts in the interim charges to the Texas Senate and House. We are encouraged to see the Legislature take a thoughtful, proactive approach that closely aligns with concerns raised by our grassroots membership regarding water, electricity, land use, infrastructure, and impacts to rural communities.

Texas Farm Bureau recognizes and supports responsible economic development that strengthens the state's economy, creates jobs, and enhances Texas' reputation as a national leader in innovation and technology.

However, the unprecedented pace and scale of recent data center proposals, many of which are being sited in rural areas and on agricultural lands, raise important questions. This is why our grassroots leaders adopted policy at the 2025 Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting supporting appropriate regulatory oversight of the siting and operation of these facilities.

Of particular concern to Texas farmers and ranchers are the demands data centers place on critical natural resources, especially water and electricity, in rural regions already facing groundwater depletion, limited surface water supplies, and recurring drought. Large data centers may require significant and continuous water use for cooling, potentially competing with agricultural production, municipal needs, and long-term aquifer sustainability. Their high electricity demand can strain local transmission infrastructure, affect grid reliability during peak agricultural and residential use, and increase power costs over time.

Rural communities also experience land use and infrastructure impacts, including heavy construction traffic, road upgrades, and long-term public service demands. Greater transparency and data-driven analysis are needed so landowners and local officials can make informed decisions about water sourcing, power interconnection, tax impacts, and emergency management.

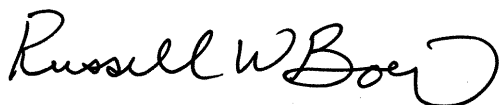
For these reasons, in addition to the Legislature's interim charges, Texas Farm Bureau respectfully requests that relevant state agencies be actively engaged and that comprehensive, coordinated studies be undertaken to examine the impacts of large-scale data centers.

Such studies could be conducted or coordinated through relevant state agencies, including the Texas Water Development Board, Public Utility Commission of Texas, ERCOT, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, with meaningful input from agricultural producers, landowners, and local governments.

Texas Farm Bureau believes that sound policy begins with sound data. Proactive analysis will help ensure that data center development proceeds in a manner that protects Texas' agricultural heritage, conserves vital natural resources, and supports the long-term vitality of rural communities—while still welcoming responsible investment and innovation.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to being a resource to you and the committee members as this important work continues.

Respectfully,



Russell W. Boening
President

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CC: The Honorable Charles Schwertner
The Honorable Ken King

The Honorable Charles Perry
The Honorable Cody Harris