



October 7, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Recent reporting indicates the Trump administration is considering transferring more than 17,000 acres of federal land across Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah for at least 12 proposed data centers. The administration has reportedly identified additional federal parcels, including land in eastern Oregon.

America's public lands belong to all of us, not a handful of billionaires looking for a place to build AI data centers. Yet that is precisely the direction the Trump administration appears to be heading.

The public overwhelmingly supports protecting public lands and overwhelmingly opposes the speed at which data centers are being built.

That is why we urge you, as part of the upcoming government funding bill, to include clear language prohibiting the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, and other federal agencies from using appropriated funds to sell, transfer, lease, or otherwise make federal public lands available for private hyperscale data centers and their associated infrastructure.

The stakes are enormous: Hyperscale data centers consume extraordinary amounts of electricity and can place substantial demands on water supplies and local infrastructure. Communities across the country are already grappling with how to accommodate the rapid growth of AI while protecting ratepayers, water resources, and the electric grid.

The administration is pushing to locate data centers on federal lands while simultaneously gutting the federal workforce that manages these lands.

There is no reason American taxpayers should give our public lands to private companies so they can build facilities to serve their own businesses.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act is clear: Public lands should generally remain in federal ownership unless disposal of a particular parcel, through the required planning process, serves the national interest. It also directs that public lands be managed to protect environmental, water, ecological, scenic, historic, and recreational values. Using public lands for data centers would be a clear violation of that act.

Our nation's public lands are one of America's greatest inheritances. Congress should not let the Trump administration turn them into a taxpayer-subsidized industrial park for the AI industry.

You have the power to stop this. We urge you to use it.

Sincerely,

Timothy Whitehouse
Executive Director