

AI Data Centers: Growth With Guardrails

Policy Position Statement

Artificial intelligence and advanced computing are becoming central to the modern economy. Colorado can and should participate in that growth—but AI data centers must be treated like the heavy industrial facilities they are, with clear rules to protect ratepayers, water supplies, and local infrastructure.

As a candidate for House District 22, my position is pro-innovation, pro-business, and firmly pro-taxpayer.

The Issue

AI data centers differ from traditional facilities in three critical ways:

- They consume enormous amounts of electricity, often equivalent to a small city
- Many require large volumes of water for cooling
- They create few permanent local jobs relative to their infrastructure demands

Principle 1: Ratepayers Come First

Large-load customers should not be subsidized by residential or small-business utility customers.

AI data centers must pay for their own substations, transmission upgrades, and grid interconnections, with long-term power contracts and financial guarantees.

Principle 2: Water Accountability

Preference for air-cooled or closed-loop cooling systems, mandatory public reporting, and verified long-term water plans.

Principle 3: No Blank-Check Tax Incentives

Incentives only with transparent cost-benefit analysis, enforceable benefits, and clawback provisions.

Principle 4: Real Local Benefits

Local hiring, apprenticeship participation, and use of local vendors.

Principle 5: Responsible Siting and Resilience

Appropriate zoning, emergency planning, and transparent energy and water reporting.

Bottom Line

I support high-tech growth—but corporations must pay their own way. Growth should strengthen infrastructure, not strain it.

Approved by Pierson for Colorado. Registered Agent, Addison Hill. As of 2/2/26