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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Before Advancing Data Center Legislation, Lawmakers Should Examine Real Drivers of Power Costs

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As lawmakers consider House Bill 646, legislation establishing a Data Center Study Commission, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) today urged members to fully examine the real drivers of rising power costs before advancing legislation focused on data centers.

“Public frustration over electricity prices is understandable,” said Ryan Augsburger, president of OMA. “But the narrative is moving faster than the facts. Before lawmakers single out one sector, they should examine the full cost picture. Scapegoating data centers without examining utility spending, infrastructure approvals and incentive structures will not lower bills.”

OMA requested the opportunity to present its [testimony](#) in person before the House Technology and Innovation Committee. The request was not granted. The association's written testimony was submitted for the official record.

OMA also submitted [analysis](#) prepared by RunnerStone LLC examining utility cost trends, demand projections and capital planning assumptions submitted to PJM. The review found that certain rate constructs may significantly overstate projected demand associated with data centers, in some cases by roughly 40%, potentially inflating infrastructure commitments before the demand materializes.

According to PJM's Independent Market Monitor, forecasts of unbuilt data centers increased regional capacity costs by more than \$21 billion over a three-year period. Those costs flow into customer bills.

OMA said the broader issue involves how demand is projected, how infrastructure is approved and how utility incentives drive capital investment decisions across the system.

“Electricity policy should be built on facts, not convenient narratives,” Augsburger said. “If lawmakers misidentify the source of rising costs, they risk cementing the problem instead of solving it.”

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry.

Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit ohiomfg.com, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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