



*June 18, 2026*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OMA Says Utility-Backed Data Center Tariffs Are Not Customer Protection**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) today said [federal action on large-load grid costs](#) reinforces a basic customer-protection principle. Data centers and other large energy users should pay for the infrastructure needed to serve them, not shift those costs onto manufacturers, families and small businesses.

The Trump administration, governors from both parties in states served by PJM and federal regulators are increasingly aligned around that standard. Earlier this year, President Trump and those governors called for data centers to pay for new power resources built to serve them, whether the projected load ultimately materializes or not. Now, federal regulators are requiring regional grid operators, including PJM, to address large-load cost shifting and transparency into transmission costs.

“Of course utilities do not like reforms that make it harder to pass the bill to existing customers,” said OMA President Ryan Augsburger. “That is exactly why reform is needed. If a data center causes new grid costs, the bill should go to the data center, not to Ohio manufacturers and other customers. Utilities should not get to turn speculative load forecasts into guaranteed revenue and call that customer protection.”

OMA has repeatedly warned that utility-backed data center tariffs are not real customer protection. That is why last week’s rushed push to pass a utility-backed tariff framework, written for utilities and sold as customer protection, was so troubling. Real customer protection requires verified demand, cost causation, upfront payment for caused upgrades and nondiscriminatory rules that apply fairly to all customers.

Federal action is important, but it does not replace the responsibility of state regulators to protect retail customers. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio should reject tariff schemes that reward utilities for overbuilding around speculative demand and ensure Ohio customers are not left paying for infrastructure built around forecasts that may never materialize.

“Ohio should not pass utility wish lists and call them customer protection,” Augsburger said. “If policymakers want to protect customers, the standard should be simple. Prove the demand, make the cost-causer pay and do not leave everyone else on the hook for infrastructure built around forecasts that may never materialize.”

###

*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](http://ohiomfg.com), or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).*

**Dave O'Neil**

Director, Communications and Marketing

(614) 629-6828

[doneil@ohiomfg.com](mailto:doneil@ohiomfg.com)

33 N. High St., 6th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3005

Phone: 614-224-5111 • Toll free: 800-662-4463  
Fax: 614-224-1012

[oma@ohiomfg.com](mailto:oma@ohiomfg.com)  
[WWW.OHIOMFG.COM](http://WWW.OHIOMFG.COM)