

**Statement of Lisa Ganuelas, Board of Trustees Member at Large
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
to
Oregon Governor's Data Center Advisory Committee
May 29, 2026**

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the Committee's conversation today.

I want to note that we do not consider our participation in today's meeting or previous meetings formal Tribal consultation. Our understanding is that there will be an opportunity for formal Tribal consultation as the Data Center Advisory Committee's draft recommendations are completed and finalized. We respectfully request that the Governor's Office help facilitate and participate in Tribal consultation alongside any relevant agencies at that time.

We would like to take the opportunity today to voice our concerns regarding adverse energy impacts related to the hyperscale data center propagation within our ceded lands surrounding the Umatilla Indian Reservation and elsewhere along the Columbia River, where we have Treaty-reserved rights, which includes the right to take fish. Salmon is one of our First Foods and a cultural cornerstone for our people. Although Salmon is not the first of our first foods, Water is. We begin and end our ceremonies with Water.

The modern artificial intelligence landscape is moving very quickly and its extreme increase in use is part of what is driving the data center boom and tapping out the existing energy grid. Any growth in data centers and increased energy needs must be rooted in fairness and mutual respect, with fair cost-sharing models in place. This growth must not come at the Tribes' expense, or at the expense of our Tribal members through increased energy costs.

Our concerns include a lack of transparency in the contracting and siting of hyperscale data centers in the CTUIR's ceded lands and along the Columbia River. The resulting pollution and noise of fans running continuously that are required to keep data centers at the appropriate temperatures have adverse effects on the surrounding communities and the environment, as does the extreme heat waste and contaminants that leach into the water.

The lack of transparency affects the ability to plan for long-term water and energy needs. Planning is critical because, as our Tribal economy evolves, so do our energy demands alongside the need for energy resilience. The water quantity and quality needed to maintain salmon, a cultural resource, must not be further damaged and reduced by data centers' need for water, and the energy demand necessary to maintain a flourishing Tribal economy should not be second to data centers' energy demands.

Air-cooled hyperscale data centers may be an option to ease the strain on water resources, but the amount of energy required for this form of data center cooling is extremely large and will tax an already struggling energy infrastructure even further at the expense of Oregon citizens and CTUIR's Tribal members.

Data center development of microgrid resources may be helpful to address some of our concerns, but also raise separate concerns on their own, especially with possible co-location of small modular nuclear reactor demonstration projects looming. CTUIR adopted, through Resolution 22-067, CRITFC's 2022 Energy Vision, including Recommendation 42 regarding new nuclear energy. In part, the Recommendation advocates that evaluation of sites for nuclear fission reactors should consider the costs and compatibility with intermittent renewable resources and salmon protections. If future legislation were to allow for such a co-location model, we adamantly emphasize that there must be government-to-government consultation with our Tribal government to address any impacts to our Tribal resources from nuclear by-products and waste.