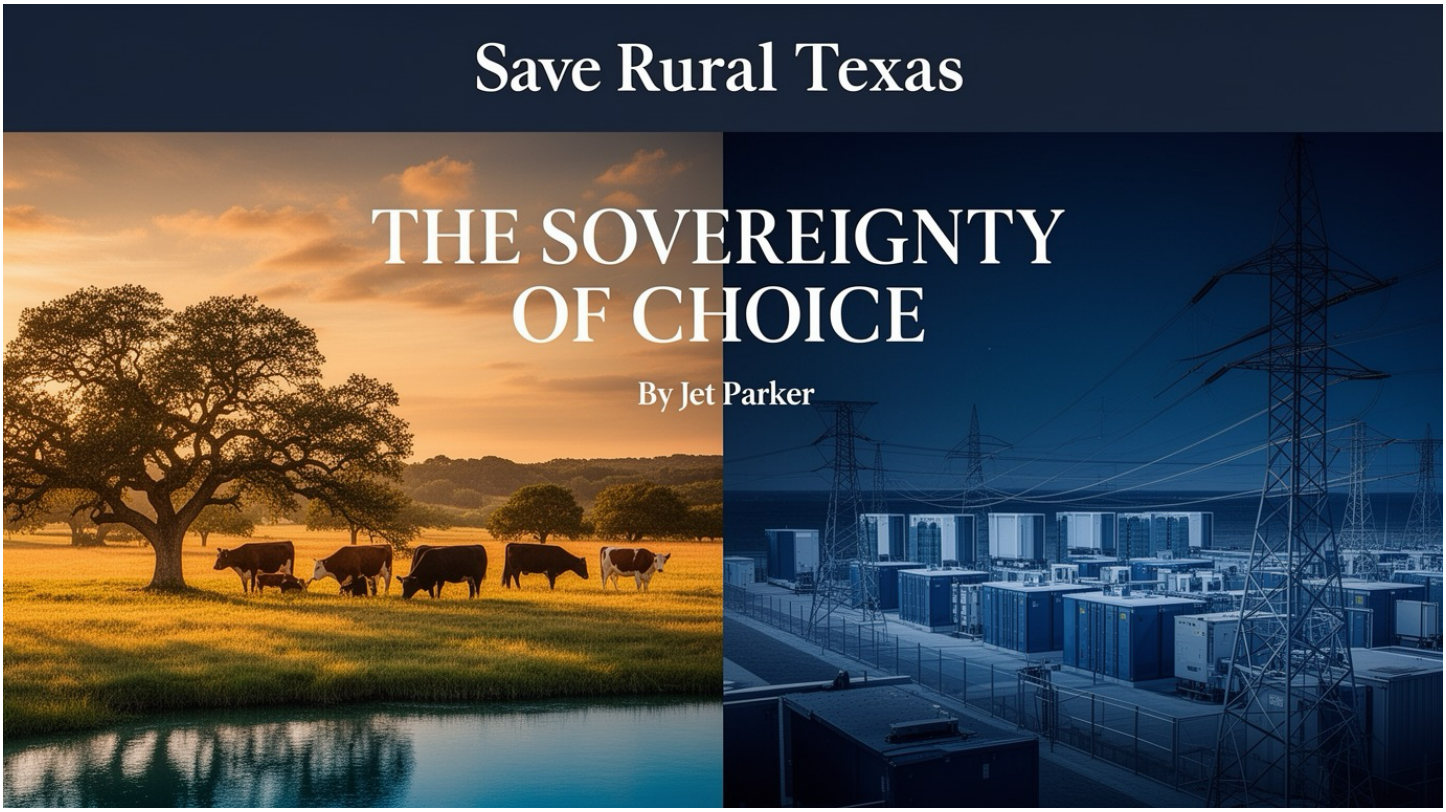


Rural Texans, and by default, all Texans are at a crossroads.

On one side of this intersection are the corporate oligarchs who've decided they will decimate our rural land and natural resources in the name of success. Success, by their definition, is the fast-paced expansion of their industrial spiderweb - AI data centers, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) sites, 765 kV transmission lines and wind/solar farms - across our state.

Also at this intersection: freedom-loving Texans. Rural farmers, ranchers, landowners who chose the *abundant* way of life away from the noisy machinations of urban living. Abundance, for rural Texans, is about *retaining* a better balance of all the elements that make life more fulfilling - health, faith, relationships, authenticity, wealth, while also *maintaining* their self-reliance with civic accountability, food resources, clean water sources and mineral/property rights.

Texans realize the aggressive spread of these industrial sites are threatening their way of life. They want a hard stop on further expansion of this industrial takeover and have sent a clear message to our legislative leaders they may practice their sovereignty to choose differently in November without immediate action to change the course of the spread.

Rural Texans, and Americans as a whole, have communicated they don't want these sites near them. A recent Gallup poll noted that 7 in 10 Americans oppose constructing data centers for artificial intelligence in their local area, including nearly half, 48% who are strongly opposed. Further, Gallup found majority opposition across party groups, and opposition in the South was 75%.

Governor Abbott says he will protect rural Texas neighborhoods, but rural land is still vulnerable. No, this is not paranoia. **These oligarchs are literally telling us the expansion of these facilities is coming for our rural communities.**

The Pew Research Center found 67% of planned U.S. data centers are in rural areas, compared with just 13% of currently operating centers. It also found 39% of planned centers are in counties that currently have no data center. Based on Data Center Map information accessed February 19, 2026, Pew counted Texas at 466 data centers—296 operating and 170 planned (land banked, under construction).

This aggressive pace of expanding industrial AI related facilities is one of the most consequential concerns for rural voters and has united a bipartisan front of Independents, Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians into a large voter bloc. Without preemptive election intervention this issue could jeopardize the November Governor's, Lieutenant Governor's, Comptroller's, U.S. Senate, Attorney General, Land Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner and Commissioner of Agriculture races.

The outcome could be devastating. Republicans currently hold 88 of 150 Texas House seats; all 150 are being contested in November.

And Texas has the largest rural population of any state in America—4.7 million Texans according to the U.S. Census Bureau. **Why jeopardize the Republican Party stronghold by alienating such a large, united voter base?**

I posit we don't need more of these sites in Texas at all—at least not right now. There are 49 other states that can share the load.

Pew Research Center's 2026 analysis shows just how disproportionately that expansion is already falling on Texas:

Texas: 170 planned
Washington: 11 planned
Florida: 8 planned
New York: 6 planned
Oregon: 27 planned

Texas alone has more than three times as many planned data centers as those four states combined.

And I posit we need to ask whether the United States needs to continue expanding them at this extraordinary pace right now.

Stanford's **2026 AI Index** reports that the United States already has **5,427 data centers—more than ten times as many as any other country.** Germany is a distant second with 529; the United Kingdom has 523; and China has 449.

So, the question isn't whether America should remain competitive in AI. Proponents should have to prove need, pace demands and the concentration in Texas. This is especially true since Pew's report also revealed **1,556 planned U.S. facilities** across the four regions—754 South, 419 Midwest, 277 West and 106 Northeast.

So, Texas isn't being asked to accommodate expansion because **America isn't building more**. America already has an enormous development pipeline.

How many more data centers does America need, how quickly do we need them—and why is Texas being forced to bear such a disproportionate share of the cost?

A pause on these sites would allow time to secure the answers to these questions. It would give us time to explore ways to reduce dependence on ever-larger centralized hyperscale facilities and evaluate the merits of other power generation alternatives and locations. This is especially true since Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory estimates data centers could consume 9.5% to 15.3% of all U.S. electricity by 2030. Before Texas destroys pristine farm/ranch land to accommodate this enormous conventional and transmission infrastructure, we should first determine whether emerging generation technologies could materially change what infrastructure is really needed.

- Elon Musk has already announced that Space Explorations Technologies Corp. will launch AI Data center satellites into orbit by the fourth quarter of 2027.

- Optimizing distributed AI computing methods could be an option. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) notes AI processing can occur in cloud data centers, near the point where data are collected (the edge), on the device or distributed among multiple computing nodes. A May 2026 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory paper (LBNL) identifies four mechanisms for reducing data centers' impact on the grid: computational load flexibility—moving computing tasks either in time or geographically, flexible facility operations, energy storage, and onsite electricity generation.

- Explore the acceleration of the development and deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to provide dedicated power for AI data centers. Their smaller, modular designs offer greater siting flexibility and can be scaled to meet demand while potentially reducing construction time and upfront capital requirements compared with conventional nuclear plants.

- Explore accelerating the development and deployment of nuclear microreactors for appropriate datacenter applications. Even smaller than SMRs, microreactors are being designed for factory fabrication and transport to the point of use, potentially providing reliable onsite power while reducing dependence on the existing electrical grid.

There is no rational reason to destroy so much of Texas for an industry fraught with so many unknowns. In fact, Joe Lonsdale, co-founder of Palantir couldn't muster sound arguments for the industry's excessive expansion in his debate against Joe Allen on September 10, at the Forum in Dallas right before President Trump spoke at the Republican mid-terms event nearby.

It's troubling to Rural Texans that there is little to no desire for our legislative leaders to thoughtfully reexamine this situation. Why is that?

It doesn't make sense.

EVEN THE LEADERS IN THE AI INDUSTRY ARE WARNING WE NEED TO SLOW DOWN.

For several years, Americans were told the danger was that we might not build AI infrastructure fast enough. Now, some of the very people building AI sites are telling us we need to slow down. **Before Texas builds an industrial infrastructure system around their forecasts, perhaps we should ask why.**

Dario Amodei, co-founder and CEO of Anthropic, is warning about the extraordinary financial risk created by the speed of AI infrastructure expansion.

In February 2026, he explained the data-center economics in stark terms. "Because data centers take one to two years to build or reserve, he notes, AI companies must commit to enormous amounts of compute before they know what the corresponding demand and revenue will actually be."

Amodei offered a hypothetical: "If Anthropic extrapolated its extraordinary growth and committed to $1 trillion a year of compute, but revenue reached only $800 billion: There's no force on earth, there's no hedge on earth that could stop me from going bankrupt if I buy that much compute."

And if the projected rate of growth were simply off by a year?

Amodei added, "If I'm just off by a year, in that rate of growth…then you go bankrupt."

In a September 14 article in The Guardian, Sam Altman (OpenAI) supported Amodei's plea to pace the industry slower. He stated, "No amount of American competitive pressure should justify recklessness." Altman also called for a federal framework establishing consistent safety requirements for frontier AI. Elon Musk (xAI/Grok) also backed calls for AI caution.

If they bet wrong, their investors lose money.
If Texas bets wrong on their projections, what will Texans lose?

If a county, city or other local entity provides infrastructure, incentives, tax arrangements or other accommodations based upon promised investment and economic activity, and the underlying project collapses, the promised economic base may disappear while some public obligations remain.

First, **higher electricity costs.** Second, **stranded infrastructure.** Third, **local-government exposure.** Fourth, **expansive farming and ranching land is decimated for nothing.** Fifth, **Texas could overbuild the grid for a demand curve that is never realized.**

Here's the most critical question of all.

Why are Texans being asked to surrender land, accept massive transmission corridors and commit public infrastructure today to accommodate private-industry forecasts that even the industry's own leaders admit may be catastrophically wrong?

Make this make sense?

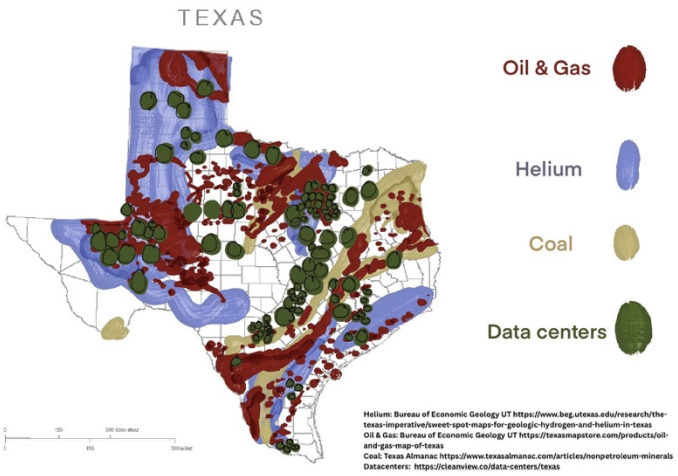
You can't.

Because these industrial sites will cost Texans much more than they will gain.

Look for yourself.

Review a map (below) of Texas' primary natural resources: aquifers, oil, natural gas, clean air, expansive ranch/farmland. If you review the locations of these (current and proposed) industrial spiderweb sites, many appear to be in the *same* areas as our critical natural resources.

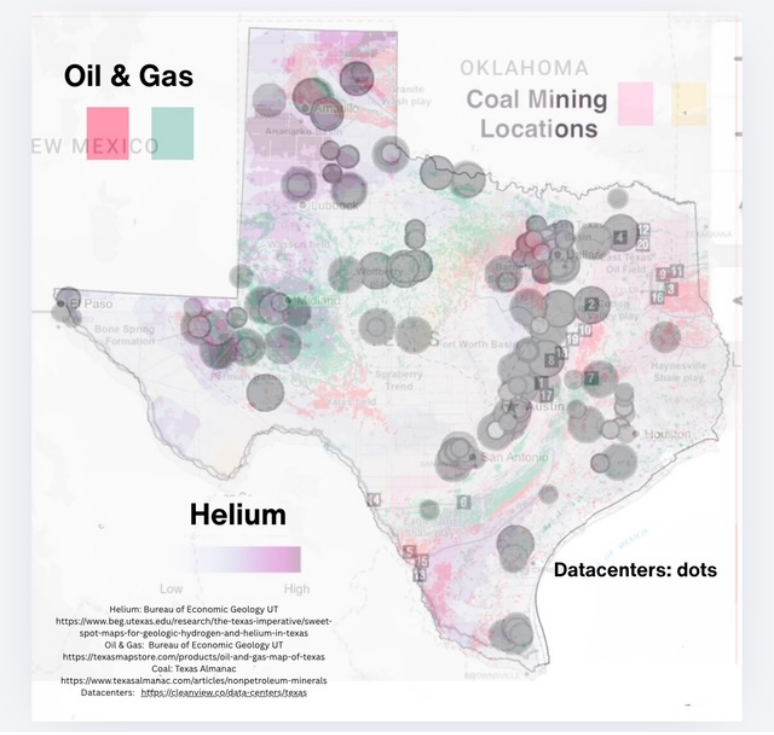
If you missed it, a recent Texas Tribune article revealed that ERCOT is currently tracking more than 1,800 projects seeking connection to the Texas grid—approximately 90% of them data centers. Although they may not come to fruition, imagine the further impact even if a small portion do so.



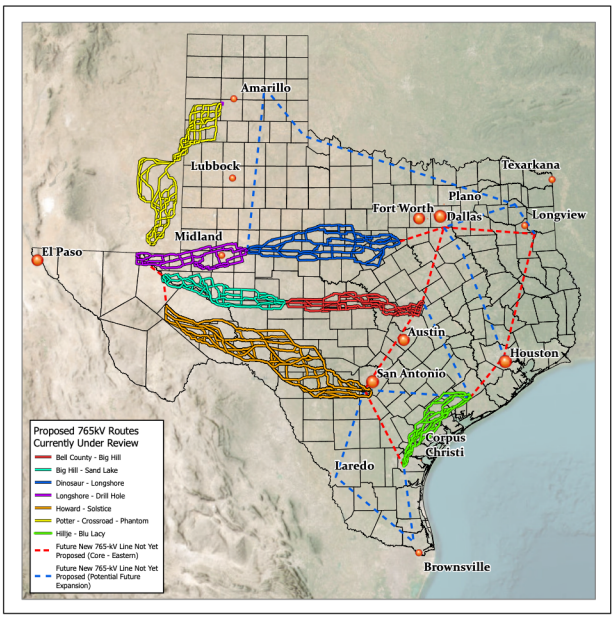
Links to other maps may also be helpful to you.

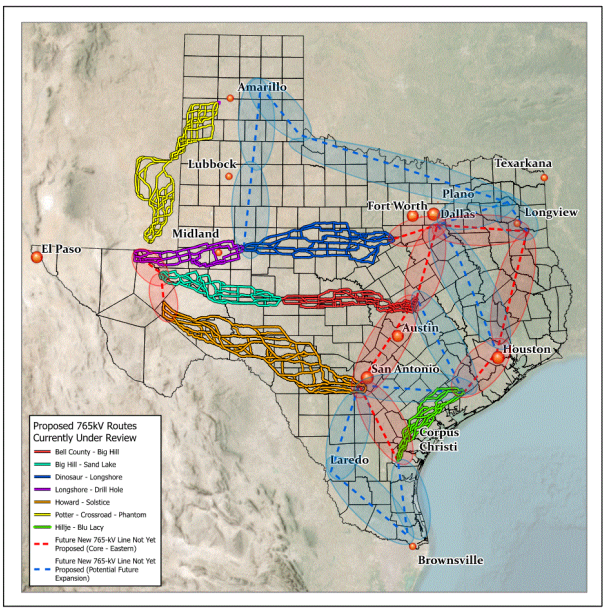
Hydrogen and Helium: https://www.beg.utexas.edu/research/the-texas-imperative/sweet-spot-maps-for-geologic-hydrogen-and-helium-in-texas

Oil and Gas: https://texasmapstore.com/cdn/shop/products/OilandGasMapofTexas2018.jpg?v=1657575501&width=1280



Now look at the plans for the 765 kV transmission lines. The outcome for rural farmers, legacy landowners and ranches would be profound if this goes through.





Note: details about the 765s.

Size – Oncor notes each transmission tower is 155 to160 feet range (about the height of a 15-story building); the span between towers is about 1400 feet and the right-of-way easement is 200+ feet. To put this into perspective, every mile of that 200-foot-wide easement encompasses 24.2 acres or roughly the equivalent to five 40-foot grain drills placed side by side.

Limits: You can graze cattle and grow crops around these towers, but there are limits of what you can do on the land; how you can use the land. Note: the impact the transmission lines have on cattle referenced on page 8 of this article.

Costs – To fight to keep these lines off your land, you must hire a PUC attorney. You will need to hire routing and environmental experts. Some folks have already spent 90,000 on their efforts in the State Office of Administration Hearings (SOAH) to keep the powerlines off their property. And lastly, the landowner who fights these lines is not likely to recoup a dime if eminent domain is forced upon them.

None of these maps includes the additional footprint of BESS sites or wind and solar farms planned across Texas. Explore these projects for yourself to understand the scale of additional development proposed across our state.

- Wind: 197 projects in development, totaling 58,499 MW of planned capacity.
- Solar: 840 projects in development, totaling 198,984 MW of planned capacity.
- BESS: 1,069 projects in development, totaling 189,953 MW of planned capacity.

Now, let's review highlights of how this massive industrial spiderweb impacts our water, our farms, our livestock, our electricity, our air and our health.

WATER

• It can take up to 5 million gallons of water a day to cool these facilities. A 2024 Big Tech sustainability reports show, in Texas, data centers are projected to use 399 billion gallons of water by 2030. • Food & Water Action estimates that by 2028, U.S. data center water needs (just for cooling) could be as high as the indoor needs of 18.5 million U.S. households. • Bloomberg News found that about two-thirds of new data centers built/developed since 2022 are in places with high water stress. Five states alone (which includes Texas) account for 72% of the new centers in high-stress areas. • Agriculture relies on stable aquifers. When a single data center

campus consumes hundreds of thousands (or millions) of gallons of water daily for evaporative cooling, it directly threatens local irrigation systems, particularly during periods of intense drought.

ELECTRICITY

• Bloomberg analysis revealed electricity costs in areas near large data centers are as much as 267% higher than they were 5 years ago. American AI Data Center Disaster report: A single scale hyper facility uses as much electricity as 100,000 homes • The Department of Energy 2024 Report on U.S. Data Center Energy Use outlines the energy use of data centers from 2014 to 2028. The report estimates that data center load growth has tripled over the past decade and is projected to double or triple by 2028.

AIR

• An analysis by the Environmental Integrity Project revealed that **Texas leads the nation with 32 planned natural gas-fired power plants** built exclusively to supply electricity directly to data centers—more than any other state. These proposed Texas facilities could emit up to **287 million tons of greenhouse gases annually**. • Although non-toxic, burning natural gas releases chemical byproducts including Nitrogen Oxide (see health section) and Benzene a known cancer-causing compound.

JOBS/ECONOMY

• The long-term economic payoff can be surprisingly small. Brookings found that wages were unchanged in communities receiving their first large data center, while home prices increased only 2% to 5%. • Texas offers exorbitant tax incentives to these facilities. The Texas Comptroller estimates the value of the combined exemptions will exceed $1 billion in fiscal year 2025 and grow to about $1.75 billion annually by 2030, while a qualifying data center can receive the exemption for creating just 20 full-time, permanent jobs within its first five years. • AI is eliminating jobs even as Texas subsidizes the infrastructure supporting it. Axis Intelligence Research calculates that AI-cited U.S. job-cut announcements reached 87,714 in the first five months of 2026, already surpassing the full-year 2025 total of 54,836.

NOISE (Infrasound and Low-Frequency Noise):

• Noise pollution from data centers is having negative impacts on people. The noise created by the cooling systems can include sleep disturbance, and negative impacts to cardiovascular health, cognitive health, and mental health impact. Data centers also often exceed the EPA-recommended noise limits.

HEALTH

• By 2028, the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence data centers in the United States is projected to cause roughly 1,300 premature deaths annually and approximately 600,000 cases of asthma symptoms under a high-growth scenario. Academic researchers from institutions like UC Riverside and Caltech estimate that the resulting national public health burden will **exceed $20 billion per year**, representing a staggering 213% increase in data center-related health costs. • The National Institute of Health notes these tiny inhalable particles of Nitrogen Oxide, emitted by the Data Center generators cause between 100,000 and 200,000 premature deaths each year. According to the Environmental Defense Fund the concentrated plumes of Nitrogen Oxide ground-level ozone directly triggers severe spikes in **asthma attacks, bronchitis, and long-term heart disease risks** for adjacent neighborhoods. • According to a 2023 Arvix report, air pollution attributed to U.S. data centers was responsible for an estimated $6 billion in public health damages.

FARMS

• Data centers are purchasing thousands of acres of productive agricultural land. In Texas, data center developers have acquired major acreage in the Blackland Prairie and the Panhandle—some of the state's most vital regions for cotton, wheat, and corn. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller warned that this rapid conversion poses a direct and growing threat to our food supply. • The fossil fuels burned to power these facilities release heavy concentrations of **nitrogen oxides.** Studies from agricultural research institutes show that ground-level Nitrogen Oxide and ozone damage crops by reducing overall yields and diminishing nutritional quality.

LIVESTOCK

• In another study, *Importance of Noise Hygiene in Dairy Cattle Farming* published in the MDPI journal ***Acoustics***, it is noted that machinery noise has a negative impact on reproductive physiology, a decrease in appetite and milk production.

WILDLIFE

• A 2023 study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) noted that prolonged exposure of humming sounds can impact animals. Specifically, chronic stress, elevation of neurochemical markers and stress hormones (dopamine, adrenaline, cortisol) which degrades the animal's immune system and alters heart rates. • The constant drone of cooling units masks the natural acoustic environment. Research has shown that songbirds are forced to alter or lower their mating calls to compete with data center noise. In heavily concentrated regions, the persistent buzzing has caused sensitive bird populations to completely abandon their nesting grounds. • Hyperscale data centers require aggressive, all-night security lighting. This constant light pollution severely disorients nocturnal animals (such as owls and bats) and throws off the migratory paths of birds, butterflies, and insects, drawing vital pollinators away from their natural habitats. • The physically fenced acreage, access roads, and high-voltage power substations built around data centers slice through open grasslands and forests. This creates strict barriers that disrupt the natural territory, breeding, and foraging routes of regional wildlife.

Now, let's swing back to success versus abundance.

Abundance, unlike success, is not achieved by pursuing more. Abundance is built by protecting what matters most.

Why do our legislators believe voters will vote the party line this time rather than protect what matters most to them?

I'm a die-hard Texan with a conservative soul. Admittedly I have voted Republican my entire life. The party has, historically, reflected my values. However, the **commerce at all costs** nature of this industry has gone too far. I correspond with multiple, bipartisan grassroots groups aligned around forcing this industry into a long pause. Collectively, they reach well over 300,000 voters. They are clearly communicating they will not tolerate another four years of the industrial spiderweb destroying rural Texas resources.

This bipartisan group of Democrats, Independents, Republicans, and Libertarians, whose way of life is being threatened, are not accepting conciliatory offers from state leaders anymore which is forcing them to seek alternative leadership that will save their state.

Historically, Republicans have depended heavily on rural Texas to build the margins necessary to win statewide. In the last three gubernatorial elections, Republican candidates captured roughly three-quarters or more of the rural vote—culminating in nearly 80% in 2022. Alienating even a portion of that extraordinarily reliable voter base carries political risk.

Do our legislative leaders believe Texans will really forfeit their chosen way of life out of loyalty to a party determined to destroy it?

I have repeatedly voiced my concern to our legislative leaders this is a poor bet. Texans understand, once these precious resources are gone, we can't get them back. Texans now understand the narratives used to justify the fast-paced expansion of these AI related facilities ring hollow. Texans are also realizing they have viable voting options in November.

In addition to the Democratic candidate running for governor, Jenn Mack is also running for governor as an independent, write-in candidate. Although she lacks name recognition, she is known for being a stalwart constitutional patriot and Christian conservative who is *armored up* for this fight.

Governor Abbott has a choice.

Pause these developments.

The current "pause" generally applies only to proposed data centers drawing more than 75 megawatts from the ERCOT grid. Medium-sized facilities drawing 25 to 75 megawatts are not paused, facilities under 25 megawatts are not covered, and facilities with their own onsite generation may also fall outside the ERCOT interconnection pause. The pause should include all these facilities.

Protect Texans.

Or don't.

Texans may not have sovereignty over what is being done to their beloved Lone Star State now but in November, Texans have absolute sovereignty over what they are willing to do about it.

Sources:
- https://www.politico.com/news/2026/08/19/how-data-centers-and-power-lines-could-turn-texas-governors-race-blue-01041065
- https://www.pewresearch.org/chart/in-a-shift-most-planned-data-centers-in-the-u-s-are-in-rural-areas/
- https://www.pewresearch.org/chart/top-states-data-centers/
- https://www.pewresearch.org/chart/top-states-data-centers/
- https://hai.stanford.edu/assets/files/ai_index_report_2026.pdf
- https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/04/13/most-new-data-centers-in-the-us-are-coming-to-rural-areas/
- https://datacenters.lbl.gov/publications/united-states-data-center-energy-2025
- https://finance.yahoo.com/technology/ai/articles/musk-moves-spacex-spcx-orbital-204103387.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAAZVql_mEuL2y8ycyF7rz3seB4cMfLyDYqMRk8ivQJWIJpN4smSK2tBFJC3cWzrbLJhEMnz0ria2_qCm3y9LtUijj5XekkBP-LO7HKJnLsx744mPesnDL_eCFArQwxm_qa0AQjp8Rv_9jxDfRDMhSZNUtxp1UJ-hF5wPqSPCUvo9
- https://datacenters.lbl.gov/publications/integrating-ai-data-centers-power
- https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/10/climate/ai-data-centers-air-pollution-health.html
- https://alpha-file.com/content/4208
- https://share.google/msbAyjIu9BCfjNQG0
- https://www.cleanview.co/power-projects/planned/wind-farms/texas
- https://www.cleanview.co/power-projects/planned/solar-farms/texas
- https://www.cleanview.co/power-projects/planned/battery-storage-projects/texas
- Water: https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org; https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/06/24/ai-data-center-boom-farmland/
- Electricity: https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2025-ai-data-centers-electricity-prices/
- Air: https://www.texastribune.org/2026/07/01/texas-data-center-power-plans-emissions/; https://www.eenews.net/articles/us-data-center-power-plants-emissions-could-rival-australias-report-says/
- Jobs: https://www.brookings.edu/articles/new-evidence-on-data-center-employment-effects/ https://axis-intelligence.com/ai-replacing-jobs-statistics/; https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/texas-news/texas-data-center-tax-exemption-hearing/4053952/
- Noise: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/climate/articles/10.3389/fclim.2026.1648912/full
- Health: https://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2026/09/10/texas-needs-greater-transparency-on-data-centers-water-and-air-impacts/
- Health: https://spectrum.ieee.org/data-centers-pollution; https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.06288
- Farms: https://www.facebook.com/reel/2696888940683853; https://www.ifpri.org/blog/generative-ais-environmental-footprint-poses-difficult-tradeoffs-for-agrifood-systems-in-low-and-middle-income-countries/
- Livestock: https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10376870/?utm.com
- Wildlife: https://share.google/0CJvXlcJ4KwUGS0Di; *https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2025/Fall/Conservation/AI-Data-Centers*
- *Hostile Takeover* article, https://www.saveruraltexas.com/post/hostile-takeover)

- https://www.texastribune.org/2026/08/03/texas-data-center-project-audit-greg-abbott/
- https://www.kut.org/texas/2026-08-27/abbott-data-center-regulations-moratorium-texas
- AI loses a Dallas debate: Yahoo News: https://share.google/XOqdYL2YxZNqSOcTw
- https://jennmackfortexas.com