



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-05

DATA CENTER WORKGROUP

WHEREAS, data centers are critical infrastructure supporting Washington State's digital economy, providing essential services that drive innovation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the data center industry is highly competitive, with states offering various incentives to attract investments; and

WHEREAS, data centers consume significant amounts of electricity, which can put additional strain on the local power grid and can necessitate increased energy generation, storage, and transmission; and

WHEREAS, locating data centers in Washington State can lead to an increase in jobs and property tax revenue, particularly for rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the most recent analysis from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee estimated that data center sales and use tax exemptions saved beneficiaries over \$100 million in the 2017-2019 biennium; and

WHEREAS, balancing economic development, state and local tax revenue, energy use, and environmental responsibility is vital to ensuring Washington state remains a leader in both technology and sustainability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the state of Washington, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Department of Revenue shall establish and lead a Data Center Workgroup.
2. The Workgroup shall include representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, the Department of Ecology, electric utilities, environmental advocacy groups, labor organizations, industry stakeholders, and others, as designated by the Office of the Governor.
3. The Workgroup shall discuss the impacts of data centers on Washington State's economy, tax revenue, energy use, and the environment. The Workgroup will consider policies that balance industry growth, tax revenue needs, energy constraints, and sustainability.
4. By December 1, 2025, the Workgroup shall submit its findings and any policy recommendations to the Governor.

This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law. Provisions of this Order are not intended to alter any existing collective bargaining agreements. This Order is not intended to confer and does not confer any legal right or entitlement and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any rule or any other action or inaction of the governmental entities and employees subject to it.

This Order takes effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 3rd day of February AD, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, at Olympia, Washington.

By

/s/

Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/

Secretary of State