



February 11, 2026

NH House
Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Granite Place Room 2029
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on HN 1265. My name is Alex Koutroubas, and I am writing on behalf of the Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire to oppose HB 1265.

HB 1265 would impose a one-year moratorium on all new data center construction in New Hampshire, halting an entire category of commercial development. The bill clearly states that no person or business may begin construction of a new data center during that period.

This is the most extreme policy option available. Meanwhile, the Legislature is already considering several other bills—SB 439, HB 1739, and HB 1724—that address regulation, tax structure, and utility reporting without banning construction. SB 439 in particular already empowers local planning boards to regulate data centers appropriately. There is no need for a statewide freeze.

At a time when demand for data centers is surging nationally—driven by artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure—New Hampshire risks sending a message that we are closed for business. Developers are evaluating states based on regulatory predictability, and the Northeast is seen as an emerging market. A moratorium discourages investment not only in data centers, but across the entire industrial construction sector.

Energy and environmental concerns are legitimate and should absolutely be studied. Issues such as energy demand, noise, and water use need to be examined. But these are exactly the types of issues municipalities already manage through existing local review processes. We can study impacts without stopping construction.

AGC of NH strongly supports responsible development, thoughtful regulation, and local control—not blanket bans that undermine economic growth and workforce stability.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to find HB 1265 inexpedient to legislate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Koutroubas".

Alex Koutroubas
Executive Vice President – NH Chapter
Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire