President Trump, Please Put America's Health First in the AI Boom

August 21, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Cc: The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services; The Honorable Chris Wright, Secretary of Energy; The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture; Members of the Make America Healthy Again Commission

Re: Data centers, coal pollution, and the promise to Make America Healthy Again

We write as Americans who appreciate the important steps your Administration has taken to elevate America's chronic disease crisis. The appointment of Secretary Kennedy, the creation of the MAHA Commission, and the focus on root causes, transparency, conflicts of interest, food quality, and children's health have given millions of families hope that Washington is finally taking seriously what parents and health advocates have said for years: America cannot medicate its way out of a health crisis caused, in part, by what we allow into our food, water, air, soil, and homes.

That is why we are raising a serious concern now.

Across the country, communities are asking hard questions about the rapid expansion of AI data centers. These facilities can require enormous amounts of electricity, water, land, transmission, and backup power. Families are concerned about groundwater draw and contamination, grid strain, rising electricity costs, stormwater impacts, fire risk, local control, and the disturbance of contaminated or formerly industrial sites.

We understand the importance of American leadership in artificial intelligence, national security, innovation, and economic growth. But American AI leadership should not come at the cost of a more toxic burden for American children.

Our central concern is simple: data centers should not become the justification for burning more coal or the loss of basic democratic rights.

The April 2025 executive order on coal connected rising electricity demand from artificial intelligence data processing centers to expanded support for coal power. It also directed federal agencies to identify regions where coal-powered infrastructure could support AI data centers. That connection deserves urgent reconsideration.

Make America Healthy Again is not only about food and medicine. MAHA is also about clean air, clean soil, and clean water, and the right to secure a less toxic environment for future generations.

Many of us have spent years working to remove glyphosate, pesticides, heavy metals, dyes, PFAS, plastics, and other toxic substances from the food and water our children consume. We cannot credibly oppose toxins on the dinner plate while ignoring toxins in the air our children breathe or

the water they drink. We cannot demand clean labels on processed food while tolerating mercury, soot, arsenic, and coal ash near our homes, schools, farms, and waterways.

When coal burns, the pollution has to go somewhere. It goes into the air, water, soil, fish, and ultimately into the bodies of American families. Mercury is a neurotoxin that can harm a child's developing brain and nervous system. Fine particulate matter can travel deep into the lungs and, in some cases, enter the bloodstream. Coal ash can contain contaminants such as mercury, cadmium, thallium, radium, and arsenic, which can pollute waterways, groundwater, drinking water, and air if not properly managed.

These are not distant environmental abstractions. They are direct health concerns central to MAHA and to our concern for future generations.

A child's lungs are not separate from the air. A mother's breast milk is not separate from the food supply. A baby's developing brain cannot be fully insulated from the mercury, lead, pesticides, plastics, and industrial pollutants that government policy allows into the environment.

We respect the Administration's commitments to energy independence, affordability, reliability, manufacturing, military readiness, and American technological leadership. But rising electricity demand should not mean greater dependence on energy sources that increase toxic exposure for our children and most vulnerable communities or any attempts to expand corporate profits at the expense of community input, deliberation, and due process.

America has better options. We should accelerate domestic energy solutions that strengthen the grid, defend local communities, and reduce toxic air and water pollution, including responsibly sited American clean power, solar paired with storage, advanced geothermal, grid modernization, and efficiency improvements.

For many in the MAHA community, solar raises legitimate questions about land use, foreign supply chains, and labor standards. Those concerns should not be dismissed. But not all solar is the same. Responsibly sited, American-made, farmer-compatible solar paired with storage deserves a serious look from anyone who wants affordable power without combustion, mercury, soot, or coal ash.

We respectfully urge the Administration to:

1. Reject coal expansion as the default answer to AI and data-center electricity demand.
2. Maintain and strengthen safeguards for mercury, air toxics, coal ash, heavy metals, and coal wastewater.
3. Require transparent review of data-center siting and power sourcing, including water use, power demand, backup generation, ratepayer impacts, disturbance of legacy contamination, and safeguards for local air and water.
4. Respect local democratic input and existing environmental review requirements wherever federal permits, approvals, financing, land use, grid actions, or agency decisions are involved.
5. Direct EPA, DOE, HHS, USDA, and the MAHA Commission to examine air pollution and energy-related toxic exposures as part of the chronic disease crisis
6. Convene MAHA leaders, farmers, physicians, faith leaders, local officials, energy experts, and data-center stakeholders to develop health-first standards for AI infrastructure that honor the Administration's commitment to Make America Healthy Again.

President Trump, your Administration has an opportunity to show that American strength and American health belong together. The United States can lead in AI, energy, manufacturing, and

national security without asking children to carry more mercury in their bodies, more soot in their lungs, more heavy metals in their soil and food, or more contamination in their water.

We remain committed to the shared goal of making America's children healthy again. We ask the Administration to remain committed to us.

With respect,

cc:

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Signatories:

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8. Michelle Perro	GMOScience.org
9. Jim Gerritsen	Wood Prairie Farm
10. Mary Holland	Children's Health Defense
11. Rose Welch	Organic Consumers Association
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15. Brenon Duff	Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition
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23. Howard Vleiger	Regenerative Farmer
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