



Event: [White House Roundtable: Ratepayer Protection Pledge](#)

Date: March 4, 2026

Presidential Remarks:

President **Donald Trump** began by discussing the ongoing conflict in Iran, as well as his first Administration's actions to support American interests in the Middle East. He alleged that he developed the idea to build power plants alongside data center operations, and he emphasized the need to maintain low electricity prices for everyday Americans. He argued that the Ratepayer Protection Pledge will result in a net decrease in everyday consumer utility costs, and he emphasized the strength of the economy under his leadership, noting statistics on both the Dow and S&P. He noted that this agreement will require data center developers to absorb the cost burdens associated with development, emphasizing that data centers need some "PR help." He argued these investments will also strengthen the overall grid.

Trump then emphasized that national energy demand is expected to rapidly increase in the coming years, especially with the onshoring of automotive original equipment and chip manufacturers. He discussed five main principles developers must adhere to under the Ratepayer Protection Pledge:

1. Provide or pay for all power needed to support AI infrastructure development, with the ability to sell overcapacity to the grid at low rates;
2. Cover the costs to upgrade existing power delivery infrastructure;
3. Negotiate separate rate structures with utilities, and commit to paying for a set amount of electric usage, even if all the power in the commitment is not used by developers;
4. Support investments in workforce development efforts to build out expanded power capacity for data center development; and
5. Utilize data center infrastructure to contribute additional power generation to local grids during times of need.

Additionally, Trump emphasized the need to expedite the permitting process for national energy projects, including those for data centers. He emphasized that permitting timelines have massively quickened under his leadership, noting that these permitting actions are allowing the U.S. to compete with China. He contended that the Ratepayer Protection Pledge will enable the U.S. to lead in terms of global AI development without pushing the costs of innovation onto everyday consumers. He noted that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator **Lee Zeldin** has massively helped to overhaul the permitting process for domestic energy projects. He concluded by expressing support for domestic production of natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy sources, as well as disdain for wind energy, emphasizing that wind projects will not receive permits under his Administration.

Additional Administration Statements:

Energy Secretary Chris Wright: Wright noted the President's overarching strategy to bolster AI innovation, specifically calling out the President's actions to allow the government to operate like a traditional business. He argued that the industry leaders before the roundtable have significantly contributed to American AI leadership, which Wright emphasized is critical for our national security efforts. He argued that the Biden Administration's policies increased everyday electricity costs, and he expressed support for state-level rate freezes negotiated with private industry actors. He concluded by emphasizing the central role the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has played in supporting widespread domestic AI development.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-04): Johnson expressed strong support for the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, noting that this agreement will combat misinformation regarding the impact of data center development on energy prices. He emphasized that tech companies are serving as great community partners, noting that AI developments will increase state revenues, support American competition, and create new jobs.

Sen. Jon Husted (R-OH): Husted emphasized that America's AI leadership is central to our economic and national security efforts. He praised the President's America First Agenda, and he contended that the Ratepayer Protection Pledge will directly address Ohioans' concerns about data center development.

Michael Kratsios, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy: Kratsios argued that the President has been working on this idea since the initiation of his presidential campaign. He contended that increased AI development via the Ratepayer Protection Pledge will allow the U.S. to remain a leader in terms of technological innovation, manufacturing prowess, and energy production. He concluded by arguing that the Administration is using every tool available to ensure that the U.S. can build the most advanced technologies in the world.

Dina Powell McCormick, President, Meta: McCormick argued that the President has ensured American energy, technological, and workforce dominance through his policies. She announced the creation of a four-week pilot partnership in Ohio to train fiber optic technicians, which will include guaranteed job placement with Meta upon completion. She expressed strong support for the Ratepayer Protection Pledge.

Ruth Porat, President, Google: Porat emphasized Google's support for the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, highlighting four specific goals and the ways Google has already invested in each: (1) adding energy capacity; (2) investing in AI and power infrastructure development; (3) supporting workforce development efforts for the construction and operation of data center projects; and (4) expanding and bolstering overall grid reliability.

Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX President and COO, on behalf of xAI: Gwynne noted that xAI has committed to developing 1.2 MW of additional power capacity at its site in Memphis, Tennessee. She highlighted xAI's intent to build water recycling plants in Memphis, employ local workers at xAI's developments, and emphasized the company's support for the Ratepayer Protection Pledge.

David Sacks, AI & Crypto Czar: Sacks noted that the U.S. is experiencing both an AI and construction “boom” under Trump. He argued that Democrat-led efforts to ban development outright will not protect everyday consumers.

Additional speakers who spoke in support of the Ratepayer Protection Pledge include Sen. **Katie Britt** (R-AL); Rep. **Derrick Van Orden** (R-WI-03); and Sen. **Bernie Moreno** (R-OH).

Overall List of Attendees:

- Secretary Chris Wright, U.S. Department of Energy
- Administrator Lee Zeldin, Environmental Protection Agency
- Michael Kratsios, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-04)
- Sen. Jon Husted (R-OH)
- Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-03)
- David Sacks, AI & Crypto Czar
- FERC Commissioners
- Labor Groups
 - Trump noted that the crowd contained many “electricians, plumbers, HVAC, data server technicians, and others,” but did not mention any labor groups or unions by name.
- Industry Leaders
 - Ruth Porat, President, Google
 - Dina Powell McCormick, President, Meta
 - Brad Smith, President, Microsoft
 - Brad Lightcap, COO, OpenAI
 - Matt Garman, CEO, Amazon Web Services
 - Clay Magouyrk, CEO, Oracle
 - Gwynne Shotwell, President and COO, SpaceX, representing xAI