

# OPINION

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## Clean energy mandates needed for data centers

Data centers have spread throughout the nation as businesses owned by “cloud service providers.” There are now over 3200 data centers in the U.S. and more than a hundred in Georgia.

These businesses are lured by Georgia’s tax credits for data centers. These credits were to be eliminated last year through a bill passed by the General Assembly, but it was vetoed by Governor Kemp.

Data centers consume enormous amounts of energy – the average data center uses as much power as about 200,000 homes.

A bill now in the General Assembly, SB34, deserves strong public support because it proposes protecting residential and small business energy consumers against unfair cost increases linked to the power needs of data centers.

As important as supporting SB34 is, it doesn’t cover other data-center energy problems. Not included in the bill is any requirement for the owners of these facilities to use clean energy. Currently Georgia Power proposes to prolong the heat-trapping combustion of coal and other fossil fuels, justified to meet data-center energy demands.

After a year when Georgians suffered over \$10 billion in climate-related extreme weather damages, which are rapidly worsening, it’s imperative that clean energy use is made mandatory for data centers.

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