

THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH

GRID SAVINGS ACT

The Lawrence Berkely National Laboratory estimates that data centers could account for up to 15.3% of total U.S. Electricity by 2030,¹ compared to the 4.5% of U.S. electricity used currently.² Utilities across the country are projecting a 166 GW increase in demand by 2030; just a few years ago, utilities forecasted peak demand growth of only 24 GW.³ More power usage requires more transmission capacity—we need to get the electricity where it needs to go without requiring consumers to foot the bill.

Some hyperscalers are willing to pay for grid upgrades to ensure their facilities have the reliability needed to operate 24/7/365. According to the White House, several developers have promised to pay for the grid upgrades and generation necessary to operate new data centers.⁴ But that's just a promise and the question still remains—how, exactly, will larger load customers pay for necessary upgrades to the grid?

The **GRID Savings Act** solves this issue by directing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, to issue rules for large electricity customers (150MW or higher) connecting to the grid to pay for certain necessary grid upgrades and permits them to pay for additional transmission upgrades.

This legislation makes sure the biggest new electricity users play by the same basic rules that have applied to new power plants for two decades. Today, when a company wants to connect a new power plant to the electric grid, it has to go through a detailed review process, pay for the upgrades needed to connect safely and reliably, and put up financial commitments to show it's serious about moving forward.

The **GRID Savings Act** applies the same basic approach to very large new electricity users. It requires FERC to establish clear rules so these companies understand what upgrades are needed, what they'll be responsible for paying, and how those costs will be determined. The legislation also increases transparency, protects grid reliability, and helps ensure that families and businesses aren't left paying for infrastructure that only serves new, high-demand customers.

The legislation also allows for these large-use companies to voluntarily fund certain transmission facilities, and receive transmission service in exchange for funding backbone transmission upgrades.

The GRID Savings Act offers a way forward to protect consumers' wallets while ensuring that large electricity customers are able to pay for needed grid upgrades.

¹ <https://escholarship.org/content/qt33m6w3x0/qt33m6w3x0.pdf>

² <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2026/06/22/us-data-centers-electricity-use-could-double-by-2030-doe-lab-says-ee-00967704>

³ <https://gridstrategiesllc.com/wp-content/uploads/ESIG-Large-Loads-Forecasting-report-2025.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2026/07/president-trumps-ratepayer-protection-pledge-secures-american-ai-dominance-protects-consumers>