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JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

April 30, 2026

Andy Jassy
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amazon
410 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Jassy,

Oregon's reliable access to hydropower, temperate climate, and tax incentives have attracted data center development across the state including from your company. Oregon is now home to more than 100 data centers with the potential for many more. Data centers are infrastructure that support the development of new technologies and cloud computing, and thus play a role in competitiveness and national security. However, they can also impact local communities and the environment if not managed sustainably and transparently.

Most data centers use large amounts of energy to operate and large volumes of water to cool servers and prevent overheating. This water is usually drawn from surface, ground, municipal or reclaimed water sources. Large data centers can consume up to 5 million gallons per day, or the equivalent to the water use of a town of 10,000 to 50,000 people. Furthermore, recent reporting suggests that without proper infrastructure, data centers can produce water and environmental pollutants. As a result, many communities in my state are concerned about how these centers could contribute to water scarcity in the coming years, especially as our state grapples with persistent drought.

While our country races to remain competitive in global markets and embrace new technologies, we must also ensure that measures are taken to ensure responsible use of finite resources and minimize impact to local communities. With this in mind, I request your answers to the following questions no later than May 29, 2026:

1. How is your company considering and utilizing the best available technologies to minimize groundwater withdrawals and the impact on local water resources and infrastructure?

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2. Under what conditions can closed-loop cooling systems, which enable the reuse of water, be successful?
3. Is your company already using closed-loop systems at your centers in Oregon? If not, will you consider doing so?
4. There have been reports that the cooling process concentrates contaminants in the water that remains after evaporation, thus putting additional pressure on local water systems to treat wastewater. What steps are you taking to mitigate the impacts of concentrated contaminants in water?
5. What tools and practices are available to the public to accurately track how much water data centers in their community are using?
6. How will you work with communities to transparently share the amount of water your data centers are using and the source of that water? How can this information be communicated in the early planning and permitting process, as well as during the period the data center is operational?

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator