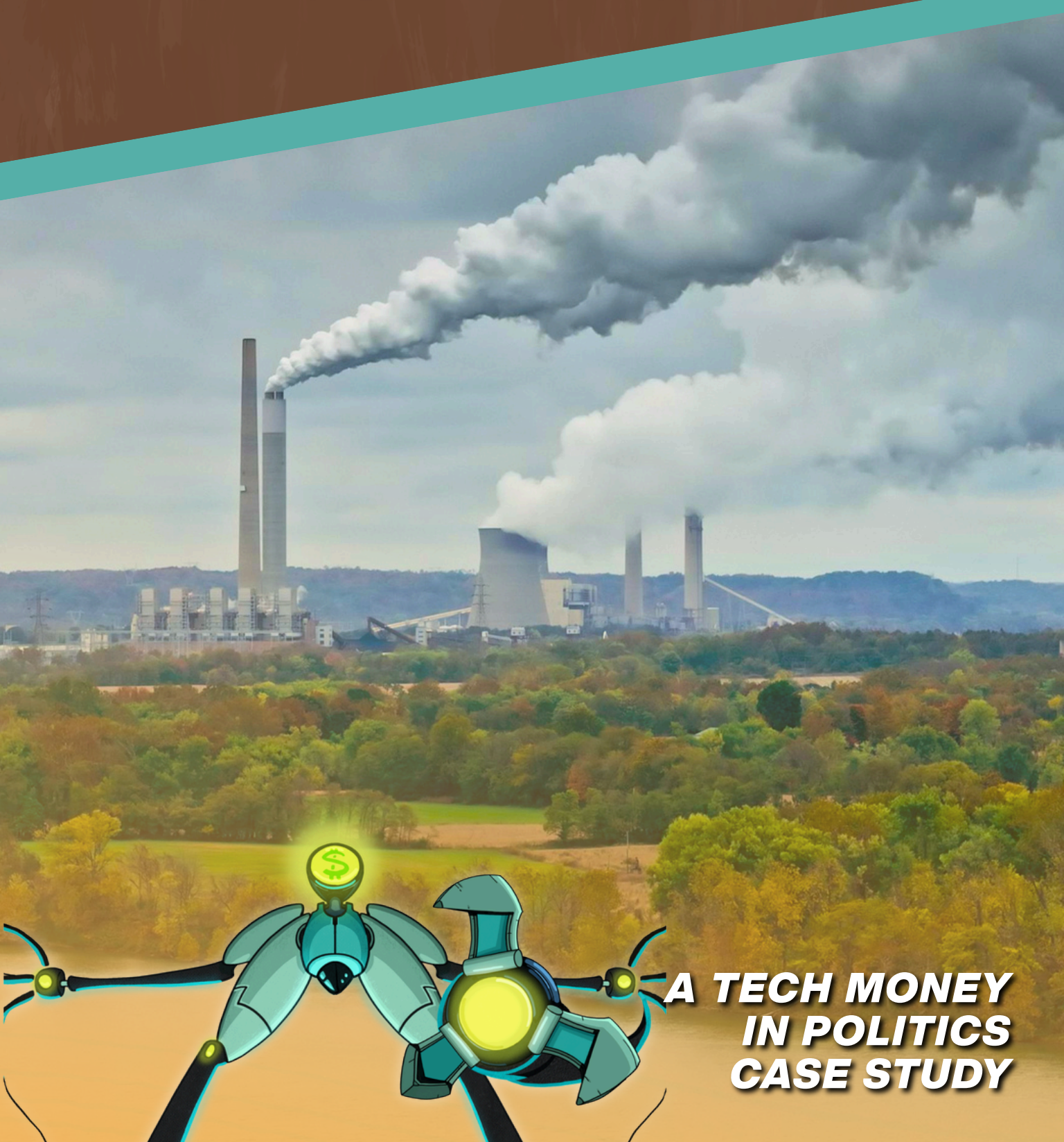


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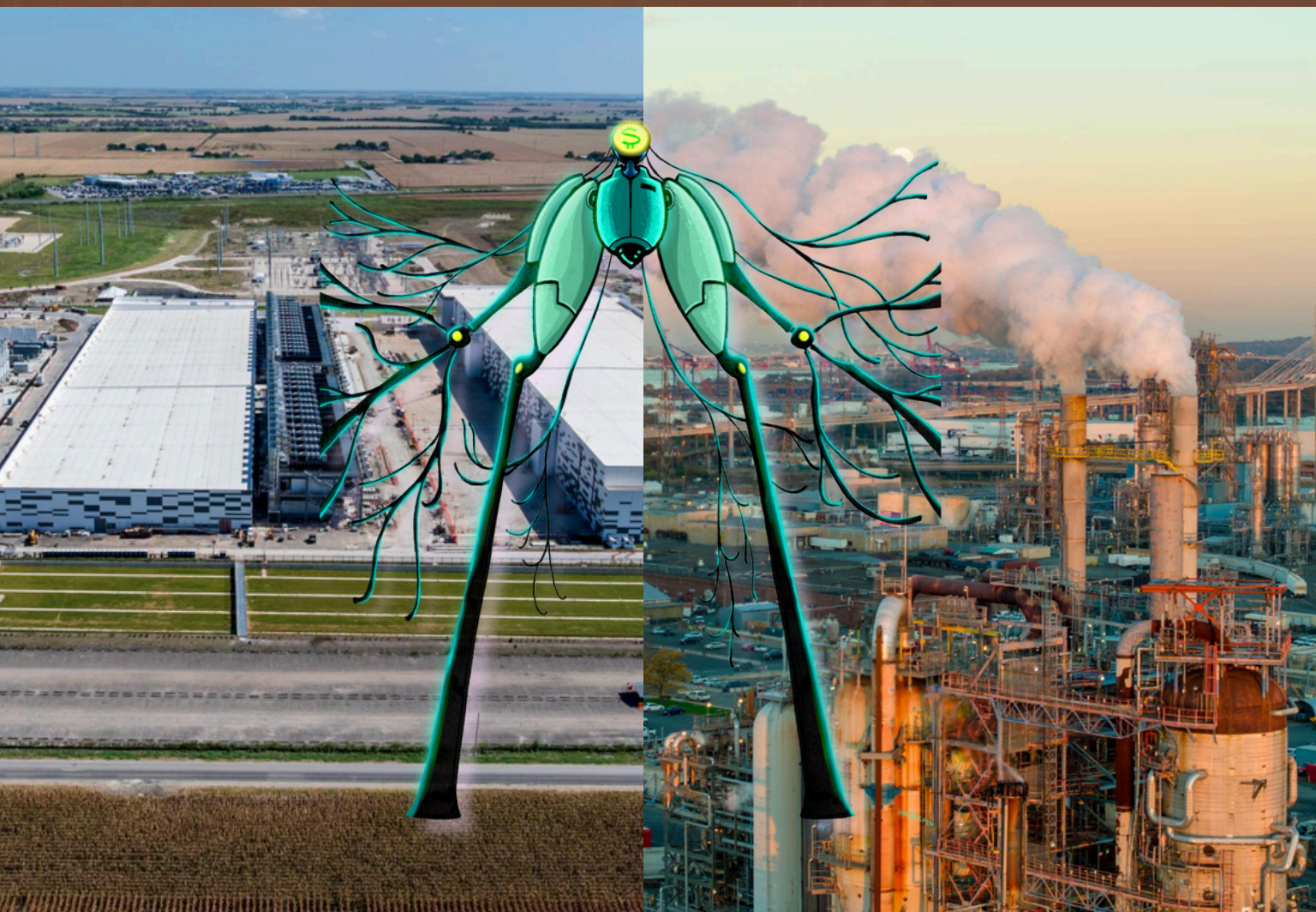
Big Tech and Big Oil: Thick as Thieves



**A TECH MONEY
IN POLITICS
CASE STUDY**

WHAT

Big Tech's manufactured AI boom and the rampant data center development that has followed has facilitated a mutually beneficial agenda between Big Tech and Big Oil. The scale of energy demand needed for hyperscale data centers is unprecedented, which has led to both industries working in lockstep to bulldoze community opposition across the country and expedite development that overrides environmental and economic protections.



WHO

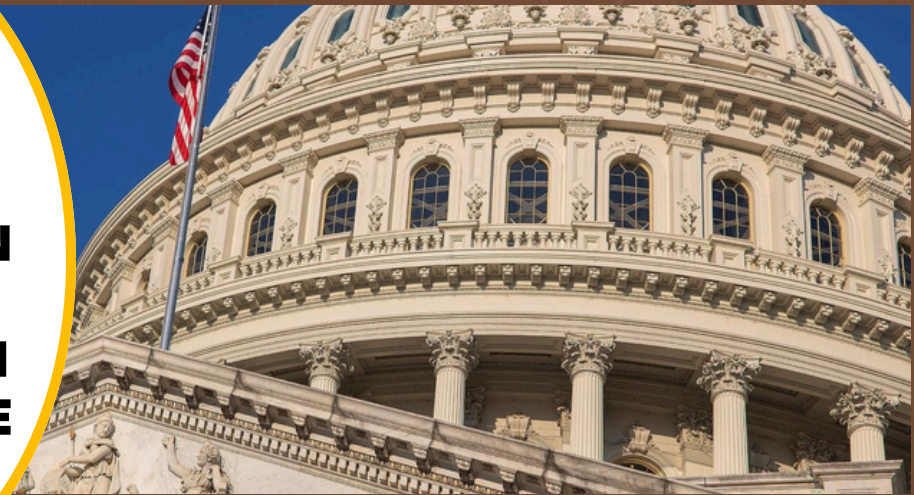
Big Tech, Big Oil, and Electric Utility companies formed an alliance called **“The AI Infrastructure Coalition”** to thwart data center backlash ahead of the midterms. The Coalition members include Google, Meta, Microsoft, ExxonMobil, and Energy industry giants, NextEra, Duke Energy, Entergy, among others.

Chevron partnered with Microsoft on Project Kilby, a massive data center in West Texas that would consume 2.7 gigawatts of electricity, equivalent to about 2 million homes. Williams, one of the biggest oil and gas infrastructure companies in the US, is building six behind-the-meter gas plants for data centers across the country, including four projects serving Meta data centers in Ohio.³



HOW

**200+
ENTITIES
LOBBIED ON
DATA
CENTERS IN
APRIL-JUNE
2026**



This is more than double the organizations that reported federal activity on data centers during the same quarter in 2025.⁴



Fact: Microsoft shared the highest number of lobbyists amongst Big Tech companies with the Energy sector [Big Oil, Utility companies, and corporate advocacy groups], with **19 overlapping lobbyists** between 2025 and September 2026. Oracle is a close second with **17 overlapping lobbyists**.⁵

WHY

Data centers have become a central issue in multiple state legislatures, where more than 300 data center bills were filed in over 30 states in the first six weeks of 2026, marking a shift from incentive-focused policies to regulatory oversight. ⁶



CASE STUDY: BILLS WHERE BIG TECH & THE ENERGY SECTOR HAVE BOTH LOBBIED

As Big Tech and the Energy sector push forward a massive buildout of hyperscale AI data centers and the fossil fuel infrastructure to power them, the industries have been working in lockstep to lobby for bills that expedite permitting for energy projects, weaken transparency regulations, and make them exempt from pollution limits.

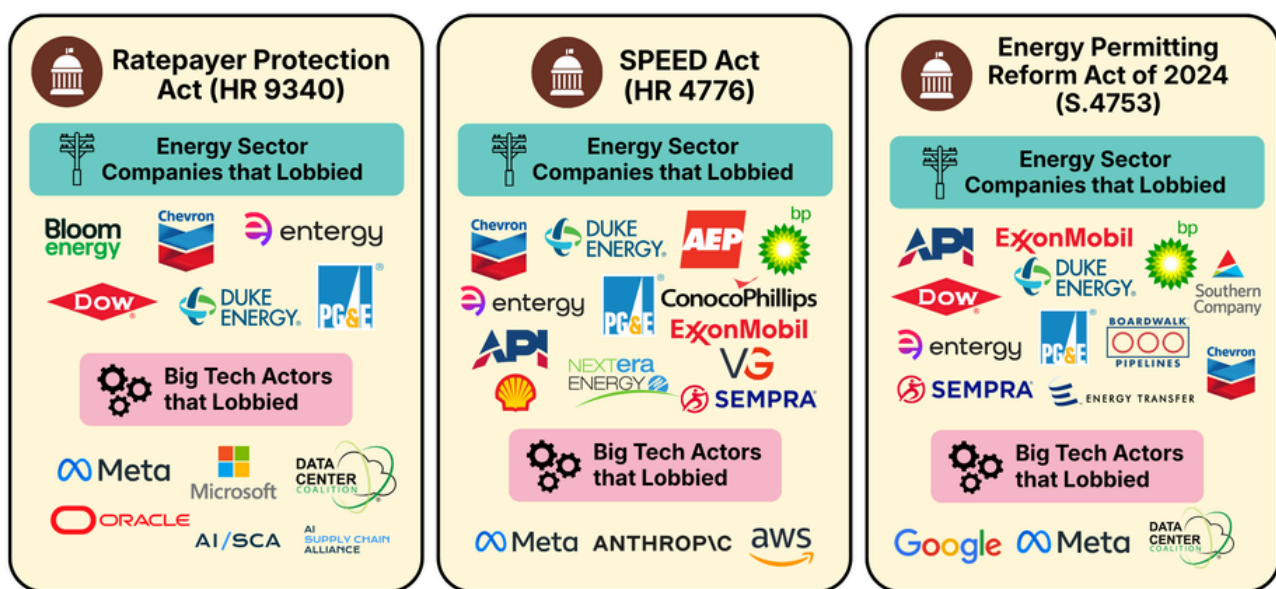


Three bills that both Big Tech and the Energy sector have lobbied on between 2024-2026 include:

Bill	What It Does	Bill Status
Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340)	Makes it optional for tech companies to pay for the additional electricity costs caused by their data centers. ⁷	Blocked in the Senate
SPEED Act (H.R. 4776)	The SPEED Act guts the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The SPEED Act would establish NEPA as a procedural statute that does not mandate any specific environmental outcomes. According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, “This is in contrast to federal environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act, which create, or authorize federal and state agencies to create, specific environmental standards with which projects must comply.” ⁸ In addition, it limits public input and legal recourse to make it virtually impossible for communities to raise concerns or challenge flawed environmental reviews in court. ⁹	Stalled
Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (S.4753)	Would have accelerated leasing, permitting, and judicial review for energy and mineral projects. ¹⁰	Introduced in the Senate, failed to pass

BIG TECH AND THE ENERGY SECTOR'S OVERLAPPING LOBBYING

CASE STUDY: BILLS WHERE BIG TECH & THE ENERGY SECTOR HAVE BOTH LOBBIED



Fact: The Big Tech and Energy Industry players that lobbied on the Ratepayer Protection Act, the SPEED Act, and the Energy Permitting Reform Act, spent over **\$334 million dollars total in lobbying efforts** from Jan 2025 to the end of Sep 2026. These Big Tech and Energy Industry players **shared a total of 69 overlapping lobbyists.** ¹¹

Big Tech and Big Oil are **buying political influence** to poison our air and water and subsidize their energy costs, all while claiming it is to secure our future. These bills hijack critical environmental safeguards and fundamentally center corporate interests over natural resources and public health.

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11. Empower Research

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This fact sheet was produced by MediaJustice with critical research support from Empower, LLC.

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