TAL SHIAR

BUSINESS ANALYSIS REPORT

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Senator Bernie Sanders Introduces the "Artificial Intelligence Data Center Moratorium Act"

Produced by the Tal Shiar Directorate of Intelligence (@Tal_Shiar_DI), November 6, 2026

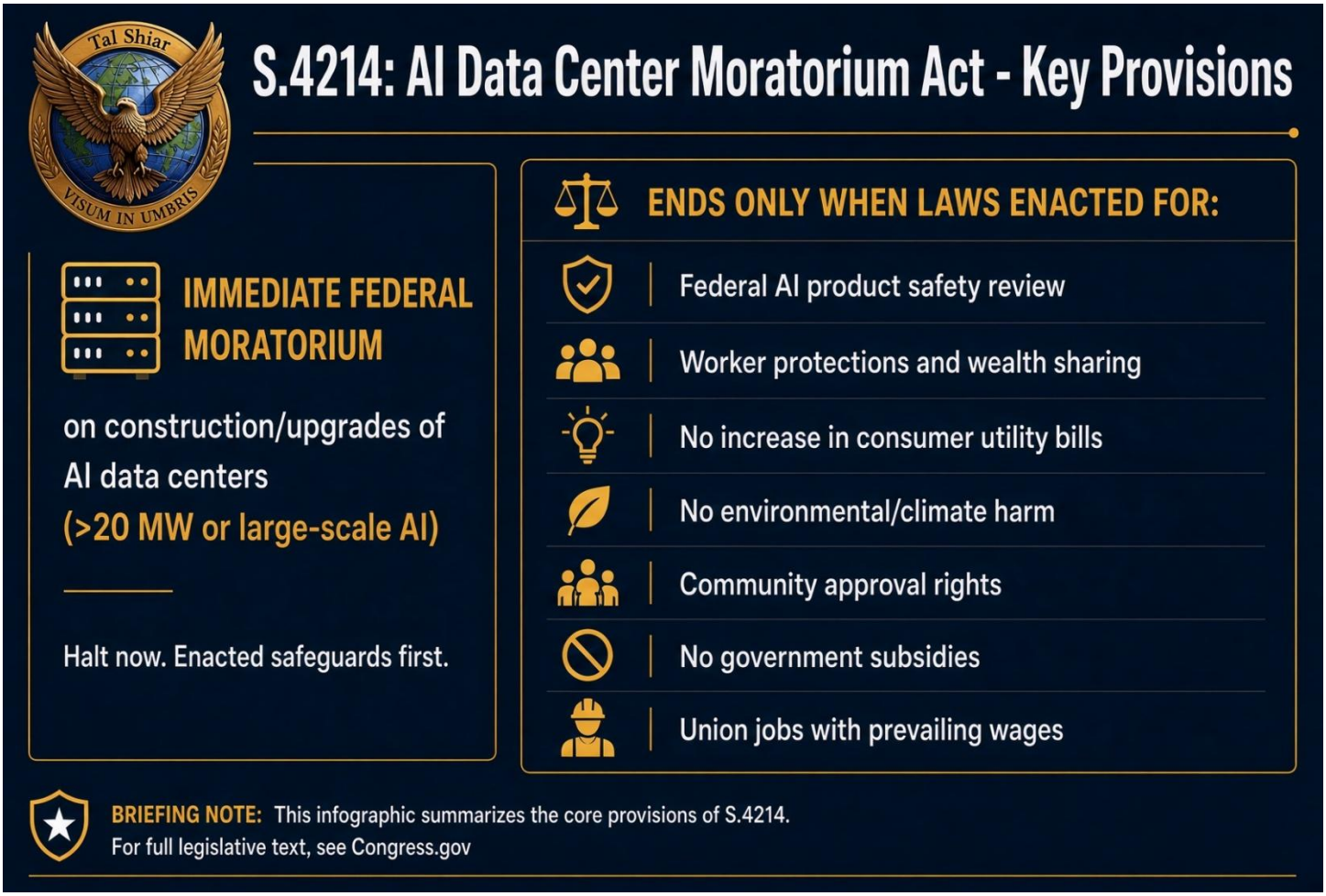
The Artificial Intelligence Data Center Moratorium Act (S.4214), introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders with companion legislation from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, would impose an immediate nationwide freeze on the construction and expansion of AI data centers. This freeze would remain in effect until Congress enacts a broad package of AI safety, labor, environmental, and community-control laws. This open-ended pause targets facilities used for large-scale AI model development or those exceeding 20 megawatts with high-density racks or liquid cooling. The bill aims to slow the growth of AI infrastructure to allow for government oversight, protect workers from job displacement, prevent increases in utility bills, and ensure environmental safeguards. The legislation also includes export controls on AI computing hardware to countries lacking comparable rules. Introduced in March 2026, it will likely be on top of the legislative agenda for the 120th Congress that will convene January 3rd, 2027.

- The bill defines covered AI data centers and prohibits construction or upgrades starting on the date of enactment until specific laws are passed that include federal pre-release AI review, policies against job displacement with wealth sharing, and post-moratorium requirements for no bill increases, no climate harm, community veto power, no subsidies, and union jobs.



- More than 100 local communities have already enacted data center moratoriums and 12 states are advancing similar proposals, according to the March 25, 2026 press release from Senator Sanders' office. This bill would affect data centers nationwide.

- As of November 6th, 2026, S.4214 remains in the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee with no further action since introduction, while the House companion has 19 Democratic cosponsors, according to Congress.gov and ailawsbystate.com reporting.



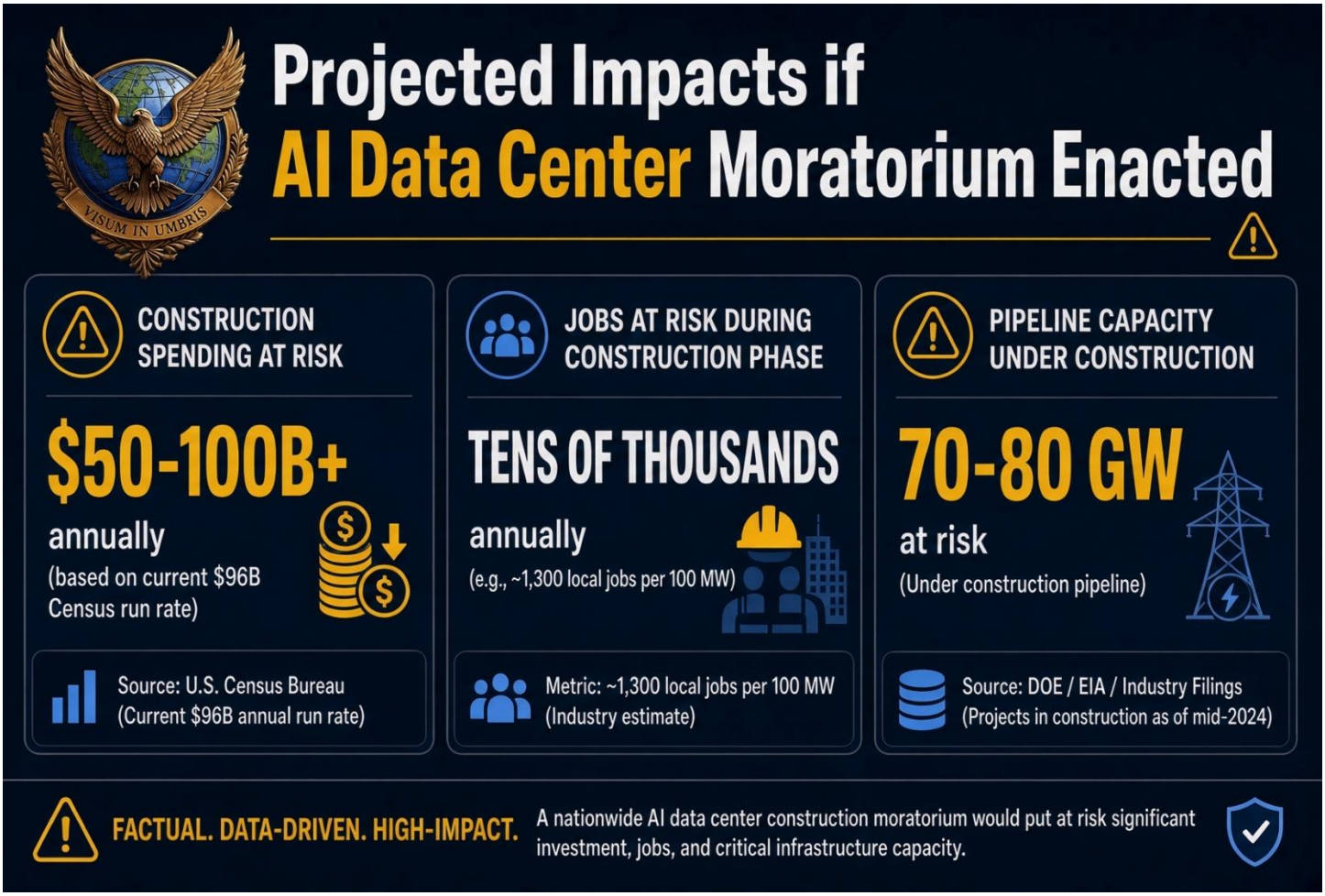
Projected Economic and Employment Effects of Enactment

We assess that if the Artificial Intelligence Data Center Moratorium Act became law, it would likely delay or cancel tens of billions of dollars in annual U.S. construction investment and place tens of thousands of construction and supply-chain jobs at risk while the moratorium remained in effect. Current private data center construction spending is running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of approximately $96.5 billion as of September 2026, according to Census Bureau data, with much of the growth tied to AI. Hyperscale firms have committed hundreds of billions in capital expenditures for 2026. A freeze on new builds and upgrades of covered facilities would interrupt projects totaling 70-80 GW of capacity currently under construction and a much larger announced pipeline. Short-term employment losses would concentrate in construction trades, electrical equipment, and related manufacturing, where each 100 MW of development has been associated with roughly 1,300 local jobs and $110 million in wages. Longer-term effects would include slower growth in AI compute capacity, potential market value losses already previewed by recent stock declines, and shifts in investment to non-covered facilities or overseas.

- Private data center construction spending reached a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $96.5 billion in September 2026, up sharply from prior years, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

- Industries tied to the AI data-center boom added nearly 20,000 payroll jobs monthly in September 2026, and every 100 MW of new development is estimated to create nearly 1,300 local jobs and $110 million in annual wages, according to TokenPost and Cushman & Wakefield reporting.

- Following Democratic midterm gains, the Nasdaq fell more than 5.5% and Nvidia dropped about 9% amid investor concerns over potential data center construction slowdowns, according to multiple reports from CNBC, BeInCrypto, and the Boston Globe on November 5-6, 2026.





Tal Shiar was founded by Nadeem Iqbal, a national security expert who served over 16 years as an intelligence officer for the Department of Defense from 2006-2022. His career began as a counter-insurgency analyst on the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force (2006–2013), followed by 9 years as a military analyst in the Syria Branch (2013–2022). He deployed five times in support of combat operations (3× Afghanistan, 2× Iraq), including two rotations with Special Operations Forces focused on counter-terrorism missions in the CENTCOM theater. Additional roles included rotations to CIA Headquarters as the military analyst for the DNI Middle East Task Force and served as the Syria Country Director for Office of Secretary of Defense Policy (OSDP). He was recognized with Joint Civilian Commendation/Achievement Medals, the NATO Medal(x3), the Secretary of Defense GWOT Medal, DoD Expeditionary Award and the OSD Excellence Award.