



April 2026

FOREIGN-FUNDED OPPOSITION TO U.S. DATA CENTER EXPANSION

\$39M+
in foreign
funding

200+ signed
moratorium letter

4 foreign donor
countries

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A network of activist groups receiving significant foreign funding is waging a coordinated campaign against the development of critical AI infrastructure across the United States. According to tax filings, annual reports, and grant databases, 12 organizations actively opposing U.S. data center development have collectively received more than \$39 million from foreign donors – including billionaires and foundations based in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Denmark.

In December 2025, more than **230 leftwing activist organizations** – many affiliated with the groups highlighted in this report – signed a letter demanding Congress impose a national moratorium on the approval and construction of new data centers, calling the industry "one of the biggest environmental and societal threats of our generation." Local chapters have since organized protests, lobbying days, and public pressure campaigns in states from Louisiana to Michigan.

These are not isolated campaigns, they are a part of a repeat network of organizations funded by the same donor ecosystem. At least one organization identified in this report has also been included in prior analyses of coordinated energy policy advocacy networks. **Previous research** by the American Energy Institute has documented overlapping funding sources, shared partnerships, and aligned policy objectives among environmental groups engaged in opposition to domestic energy and infrastructure development.



This new report documents who is funding the opposition, which organizations are involved, and how foreign money is flowing into the leftwing organizations leading the campaign to halt American infrastructure development.

FOREIGN FUNDING OVERVIEW

Analysis from Americans for Public Trust, a nonprofit watchdog that tracks foreign money influencing American politics, **identified** several foreign individuals and charities that are **bankrolling** a network of leftwing activist organizations that fund protests, climate activism, litigation, and more. A substantial portion of total funding is concentrated among a small number of philanthropic entities and individual donors, primarily based in Europe.

Those foreign funding sources include:



Hansjörg Wyss — Swiss billionaire; funds channeled through the Wyss Foundation and Berger Action Fund



Chris Hohn — British hedge fund manager; known for funding climate and social advocacy



Quadrature Climate Foundation — UK-based philanthropic organization



KR Foundation — Denmark-based philanthropic organization



Oak Foundation — UK-based philanthropic organization



Funding totals are based on publicly available grant disclosures, tax filings, and currency conversions as of March 2026.

Organization	Oak (UK)	Hohn (UK)	Wyss (CH)	Quadrature (UK)	KR Fdn (DK)	Total
350.org	\$7,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$950,000	\$1,091,083	\$9,541,083
Americans for Financial Reform	\$0	\$0	\$4,382,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,382,000
Extinction Rebellion	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Friends of the Earth	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$467,607	\$467,607
GAIA	\$6,375,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,375,000
Greenpeace USA	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
John Muir Project / EII	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,200,000	\$0	\$2,200,000
NY Communities for Change	\$550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$550,000
Oil Change International	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,899,293	\$5,899,293
Physicians for Social Resp.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$141,056	\$141,056
Sierra Club	\$0	\$0	\$2,107,400	\$0	\$0	\$2,107,400
Indivisible Project	\$0	\$0	\$7,455,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,455,000
TOTAL FOREIGN FUNDING						\$39,368,439

KR Foundation totals converted from Danish Krone to USD on 3/10/26.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR ACTIVITIES

350.org

The national 350.org organization has a **mission** of training “ordinary people to create local campaigns to ignite a renewable energy revolution.” They have publicly condemned AI and data center growth. Multiple 350.org chapters — including Bay Area, NYC, Hawaii, and Brooklyn — signed the December 2025 congressional moratorium letter. Local chapters organized protests across seven Wisconsin cities in December 2025 and rallied at the Minnesota State Capitol in February 2026.

Americans for Financial Reform

AFR **claims** to “fight the inequities and systemic racism” that stand in the way of “public good.” They have published research alleging environmental and community harms of AI and **alleged**, without evidence, that AI infrastructure development “presents one of the biggest environmental and social threats of our generation.”



Indivisible Project

Local Indivisible chapters are actively hosting anti-data center events in multiple states, including Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, Georgia, and California. The national organization provides distributed fundraising infrastructure that enables local chapters to organize without independent nonprofit status.

GAIA – Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives

GAIA, a primarily waste-focused international nonprofit, joined the December 2025 congressional moratorium letter, reflecting the broad coalition-building strategy employed by opponents of data center development.

Oil Change International

OCI is an organization that advocates for policies to ban fossil fuels. They partnered with The Guardian to publish an investigation alleging Trump administration donors would profit from data center expansion. The group has signed the moratorium letter and actively produces research with biased framing of the push for data center development.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club chapters in Louisiana, Kansas, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, and Minnesota have each engaged in local opposition efforts – directing residents to contact city councils, sharing lawsuits against proposed projects, and organizing protests. Local chapters coordinate their political activity with the national organization per Sierra Club's own compliance guidelines. The organization has also been identified in **prior analyses** of national energy policy advocacy networks.

CONCLUSION

The opposition to U.S. data center construction is not a spontaneous grassroots movement. It is a coordinated campaign financed in substantial part by foreign donors, operating through a network of national advocacy organizations and their local chapters. Many of these same organizations are involved with other far Left astroturf protests and campaigns to advance a progressive liberal agenda. This kind of orchestrated influence can shape local and national policy in ways that prioritize ideological agendas over U.S. interests.



More than \$39 million in documented foreign funding has flowed to groups now demanding that Congress halt the expansion of an industry critical to American AI competitiveness, cloud computing infrastructure, and economic growth. The risk of America falling behind in the AI race is an existential threat to our economic and national security. Data centers are bringing new jobs, tax revenue, and innovation hubs to local communities, making any delays or restrictions costly on multiple fronts. That’s why, after a recent proposal from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders to institute a moratorium, even members of their own party called it out as “**idiocy.**”

Policymakers and the public should be aware of the foreign financial interests shaping this debate as they evaluate calls for moratoriums and regulatory restrictions on data center development. Greater transparency in advocacy funding is essential to ensure that policy decisions reflect U.S. priorities, safeguard technological progress, and maintain America’s competitive advantage in AI and energy infrastructure.