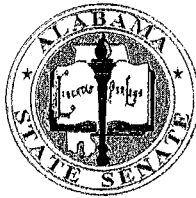


LANCE BELL

Senator, District 11
St. Clair, Shelby, & Talladega Counties
(334) 261-0966
lance.bell@alsenate.gov



ALABAMA STATE SENATE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET, SUITE 733
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

August 20, 2026

COMMITTEES:

Chair, Fiscal Responsibility



ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Friday, August 21, 2026

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ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DEVON BEATY, SECRETARY

Shelby County Registration
Veterans, Military Affairs,
& Public Safety

Alabama Public Service Commission
100 North Union Street
P.O. Box 304260
Montgomery, AL 36130

RE: Proceeding on Senate Bill 270 and Large Load Data Center Customer Contracts;
Alabama PSC Docket 33709

Dear Commissioners:

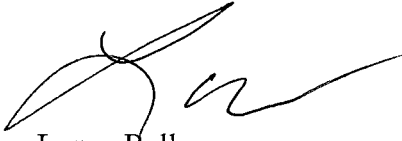
I am writing to provide my comments and perspective on the Commission's implementation of the recently-enacted SB 270 in this proceeding. As the Commission may be aware, I was the sponsor of that bill in the Legislature earlier this year. It is clear from a number of the legislative measures that were considered this year that the Legislature was very mindful that Alabama appears to have become an attractive location for data centers.

As it relates to concerns that electric service to new data centers might adversely impact existing customers, we learned a great deal about how the Commission has historically evaluated customer-specific electric contracts in order to protect other customers from downside risk. The Commission's approach has proven workable for many years and remains effective. Even so, we determined that concerns surrounding the effect of new large data centers justified a legislative codification of that process – which ensures that these contracts are structured to cover the costs attributable to serving them and not shifted to other customers. Accordingly, SB 270 adds these measures to state law as a new section of the Code, Section 37-4-22.1, which follows the current statutory provision dealing with other contracts for electric service that has been in place for years (Section 37-4-22). It bears noting that the Legislature did nothing in SB 270 to modify the Commission's careful treatment of confidential and proprietary customer information that it receives in connection with the exercise of its regulatory duties.

The Commission has stated that this proceeding was prompted by the passage of this legislation and the need to ensure appropriate measures are in place for its implementation. SB 270 was expressly focused on large load data center contracts for electric service, confirming appropriate requirements and protections for the Commission to use when evaluating whether such a contract is in the public interest and thus due to be approved. As someone who championed this legislation and has reviewed the initial comments, I believe it is important for the Commission to stay focused on that goal – putting in place the directives of the Legislature and avoiding any form of administrative or regulatory drift that does not serve that purpose.

I appreciate the Commission's consideration of my comments and am confident it will achieve the stated purpose of this proceeding in an efficient and timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Bell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lance Bell
Alabama State Senator, District 11