



SUFFIELD • EAST GRANBY • WINDSOR LOCKS

POSITION | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI and Data Centers

Artificial intelligence is a tool, not a miracle and not a monster. The question is who pays for it.

THE CHALLENGE

I work with artificial intelligence every day in my consulting practice. I have watched it go from overhyped fad to dismissed gimmick to genuinely useful tool. That is why I come at this as neither a booster nor an alarmist. AI is real, it is useful, and it is not a replacement for people.

Connecticut acted on the AI side this year, and it deserves credit. Public Act 26-15, signed in May 2026, is one of the broadest state AI laws in the country. It requires notice before an automated tool is used in a hiring, firing or promotion decision, extends discrimination law to those tools, requires notice when AI drives a layoff, and sets rules for the companies building the most powerful AI systems, for AI companions and for platforms used by minors. Most of its employment protections do not take effect until October 2027, it does not give workers a right to bargain over how AI is deployed, and a December 2025 federal executive order directs agencies to challenge state AI laws like it. The work now is defending it and finishing it.

On data centers, the state has not acted. They are the physical footprint of AI, and they are hungry for electricity, water and land. Connecticut's 2021 incentive law still offers data centers twenty- to thirty-year tax exemptions with no requirement to bring their own power, source clean energy, or report what they use. A 2025 bill to require energy and water reporting died on the Senate calendar. Two 2026 bills, one to end the incentives and one to regulate facilities drawing from existing plants, were never called. Only one company has qualified for the incentives since 2021, largely because our electric rates deter them, which is the wrong reason to be protected.

We know something about hosting major infrastructure here. Bradley sits in all three of our towns. The rule for data centers should be the rule for the airport: the benefits have to reach the people who live with the impacts.

WHAT I WILL DO IN HARTFORD

- Require large new data centers to supply their own power, so their electricity costs are not shifted onto residential ratepayers.
- Attach energy and water reporting and verified clean energy sourcing to the existing tax incentive, which today asks for neither.
- Site data centers on industrial land with infrastructure in place, never on preserved farmland or open space.
- Defend Public Act 26-15 against federal preemption, and finish it with a right to bargain over AI deployment and human review of consequential decisions.
- Protect personal privacy and creators' work from unauthorized use in AI training and deployment.

James Mol works with AI systems daily in his hospitality consulting practice, including under European Union standards his previous firm adopted ahead of any United States requirement.