



Intelligence Note

United States Capitol Police
Intelligence Services Bureau

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(U//FOUO) Data Center-Motivated Shooting Highlights Potential Threat to Public Officials, Industry Leaders Supportive of Expanding Development

(U//FOUO) Scope: ISB has prepared this Intelligence Note to provide the US Capitol Police and law enforcement personnel with information related to recent threats and attacks likely linked to grievances concerning data centers. Information in this document may fall under First Amendment protected activity and is only reported to safeguard individuals and to support the mission of the US Capitol Police and law enforcement partners. Information contained in this paper is current as of April 17, 2026, at 1000 hours and is subject to further analysis and revision.

(U//FOUO) On April 6, 2026, an unidentified individual fired 13 rounds into the home of an Indianapolis City Councilor who publicly expressed support for building an artificial intelligence (AI) data center in the city.¹ The suspect allegedly left a note reading "No data centers" under the councilor's doormat, highlighting how the construction of such centers has become a driver for threats and violence in the Homeland. Individuals and groups espousing a range of ideologies have opposed construction of data centers due to concerns including possible government use of AI to spy on Americans, as well as the associated environmental impacts, rising energy costs, and loss of jobs in certain industries. The US Capitol Police is not investigating any data center-motivated threats to Members of Congress; however, related policies introduced on the Hill and in local communities are likely to continue drawing opposition, increasing potential concerns for public officials.

- (U//FOUO) Following the April 6 Indianapolis incident, some online users expressed support for the shooter and future political violence. Comments included "Good. Communities need to start punishing politicians like this," "Threatening the politicians who actually make decisions is actually logical. I would rather shooters shoot up the senate than a highschool," and, "...you can be damn sure there are thousands more rounds where this comes from and if you keep voting for data centers, we will all begin returning to the early days of American freedom and express ourselves via violence over words."²
- (U//FOUO) On February 18, 2026, an online user of a far-right forum wrote, "Assassinate your county commissioners that rammed the data center through...that might get media attention." The post was in response to a thread discussing the arrest of an Oklahoma man who expressed disapproval of a proposed data center and exceeded the three-minute time limit at a city council meeting in Claremore, OK.³⁴
- (U//FOUO) Seth Pendley^{USPER} was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for plotting to blow up a data center in Virginia in 2021.⁵ Pendley planned to use C-4 plastic explosives to attack a prominent technology company's data centers because he believed they provided services to the FBI, CIA, and other federal agencies, and he hoped to bring down "the oligarchy."⁶ In an unrelated incident, Pendley alleged that he brought a sawed-off assault rifle into DC but left the weapon in his car, before proceeding to the US Capitol building but not entering it on January 6, 2021.⁷
- (U//FOUO) In 2026, over 300 bills related to data centers have been introduced across federal and state legislatures, and the US Congress introduced over 80 bills related to AI regulation since the start of the 119th Congress which is currently in session.⁸⁹ In 2025, over 200 bills related to data centers were introduced nationwide, approximately nine times the number of related bills introduced in 2024.¹⁰¹¹

(U//FOUO) AI company executives, as well as AI data centers and related facilities, may also become targets for violence. As of April 2026, the US has over 3,000 operational data centers and more than 1,500 planned data centers in various stages of development, according to the Pew Research Center.¹²

- (U//FOUO) Sam Altman^{USPER}, CEO of OpenAI^{USPER} which developed ChatGPT, experienced two separate attacks at his residence between April 10 and 12. On April 10, a Texas man threw a Molotov cocktail at Altman's San Francisco residence before heading to the headquarters of OpenAI where he attempted to break the glass doors of the building and stated that he had come to burn down the location and kill anyone inside.¹³ Responding police detained the suspect and found him in possession of incendiary devices, a jug of kerosene, a blue lighter, and a document which advocated against AI and for the killing and commission of other crimes against named CEOs of AI companies and their investors. The suspect allegedly hoped to inspire others to commit similar acts.¹⁴ On April 12, two suspects were arrested after possible shots were fired at Altman's residence. The motive for this incident remains under investigation.¹⁵
- (U//FOUO) On April 5, an anarchist publication called for attacks on data centers claiming that, "Every drone inflicting terror across the planet, every fascist organization, and all their logistics function because these centers continue to run."¹⁶
- (U//FOUO) On January 27, an online user of a far-right forum posted, "Haha, no. Five years to kill AI startup CEOs and burn down data centers," and "Depopulate the globe vs. killing a handful of Jewish CEOs like Karp and burning down already unpopular data centers," in response to a thread discussing the possibility of AI displacing "99% of labor" in five years.¹⁷ "Karp" is likely a reference to Alex Karp^{USPER}, the CEO of Palantir Technologies^{USPER}.

(U//FOUO) ISB will continue to monitor the situation, identify information gaps, and provide updates as needed. For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the Intelligence Services Bureau by email at intelligence@USCP.gov.