

PUBLIC NOTE: REDATA MUST NOT MOVE FORWARD

Civil society, research groups, and community leaders reject REDATA and warn against creating a tax incentive policy before Brazil establishes adequate safeguards for territories, natural resources, and Brazilian sovereignty

The undersigned organizations, movements, researchers, and entities manifest **opposition to REDATA (Bill 278/2026)**, which establishes the Special Tax Regime for Data Center Services, and express deep concern over the possibility of its vote as early as the **first week of September**.

We understand that Brazil does indeed need to build serious public policies to guide the development of the digital sector. However, **we reject** that this movement begins by handing out tax benefits and tax privileges to accelerate the expansion of Big Techs and other large companies in the sector before the country even establishes adequate guidelines for territorial planning, socio-environmental safeguards, and counterparts capable of protecting its natural resources and strategic interests.

Since the bill was hastily approved by the Chamber of Deputies and sent to the Senate, **negotiations have been progressing without society having access** to the changes under discussion, as well as an effective space for dialogue and participation. At the same time, we are witnessing intense political and economic coordination to accelerate and enable its approval at all costs, without proper public and democratic debate.

The opposition to REDATA is accompanied by another fundamental requirement: political agreements driven by economic pressure and by the narrative that Brazil cannot "miss this opportunity" cannot justify closed-door negotiations, nor can they justify a logic of legislative urgency or being sold as a "blank check" to the private sector.

The debate on the impacts of data centers does not begin now. Civil society, public and private universities, research centers, experts, communities, and public institutions have been presenting concrete evidence about the severe environmental, energy, water, and territorial impacts, as well as the risk of deepening Brazil's technological dependence on foreign actors.

Why we reject REDATA and its vote

1. A national policy for data centers should not start with tax incentives. Before stimulating a new wave of ventures, Brazil needs to set rules for their expansion, evaluate the impacts already observed in the territories, and define where and under what conditions these infrastructures can operate. Incentivizing first and regulating their impacts later reverses the order of public priorities.

2. The impacts are already concrete in the territories. Data centers are energy-, water-, and land-intensive infrastructures. Different regions of the country are already facing conflicts related to natural resource use, licensing, cumulative impacts, and the participation of affected communities. Generic sustainability criteria do not replace robust socio-environmental safeguards, participation mechanisms, and effective measures to protect territories and affected populations.

3. REDATA does not provide sufficient guarantees of digital sovereignty. Sovereignty is not merely installing servers on national territory. It involves national technological and scientific capabilities, data security and governance, energy autonomy, and the protection of natural resources. Without proportional counterparts, Brazil risks granting tax benefits and providing strategic resources while assuming the environmental and social costs of infrastructures controlled by global economic conglomerates.

4. The opacity of the process contradicts the very discourse of digital sovereignty. We have observed strategic decisions regarding technology and digital infrastructure moving forward through accelerated and opaque processes. It is contradictory that this occurs while the Federal Government presents digital sovereignty as a central principle of its technological policy. **Sovereignty also means the democratic capacity to decide on the infrastructures that will shape the country's future.**

Ceará concretely exposes the risks that REDATA could deepen. In the state of Senator **Cid Gomes (PSB-CE)**, the bill's rapporteur, TikTok's data center in Caucaia is moving forward amid serious questions regarding environmental licensing, the lack of prior, free, and informed consultation (ILO Convention 169) with the Anacé Indigenous people, and the impacts on water, energy, and territory. It is especially grave that, in this context, the rapporteur is leading the negotiation and vote on a national incentive policy that ignores the very violations, conflicts, and vulnerabilities already evident in his own state.

REDATA must not reproduce, on a national scale, the conflicts, rights violations, and socio-environmental impacts that the expansion of data centers already demonstrates in Ceará and other territories.

What we demand before any vote?

We ask the Federal Senate, the rapporteur of Bill 278/2026, Senator Cid Gomes, and the Federal Government:

- **First, that REDATA does not move forward** and that Brazil prioritize the construction of a public policy for data centers based on territorial planning, socio-environmental protection, social participation, and sovereignty, before creating new tax incentives for the sector;
- **That they do not advance REDATA under a logic of urgency or through closed-door negotiations**, making negotiations public and ensuring time and effective social participation before any decision on the project;
- **That socio-environmental concerns and safeguards, already presented in documents from academia and civil society, be effectively incorporated into policies on data centers**, including transparency regarding water and energy use, evaluation of cumulative impacts, adequate licensing, independent audits, community participation, and the guarantee of prior, free, and informed consultation;
- **That any public incentive policy for the sector be preceded by an assessment of its impacts and conditioned on effective counterparts for Brazilian sovereignty and development;**

We are not opposed to technological development, innovation, or the construction of digital infrastructure in Brazil. We are opposed to a public policy model in which attracting investment becomes an end in itself, while popular participation, environmental, social, and fiscal costs are treated as secondary.

Digital sovereignty is not built with opacity, urgency, and decisions driven predominantly by economic pressure. It is built with transparency, social participation, territorial protection, and the strengthening of national capabilities.

REDATA must not move forward!

Ensure public scrutiny and rights safeguards before any decision.

Brasília, August 31, 2026.

SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES:



**CODING
RIGHTS**



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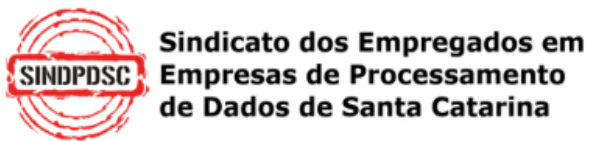
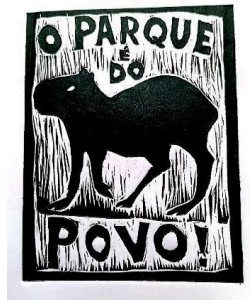
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