



LAWLER CALLS OUT CONLEY ON DATA CENTERS – WEBER CALLS OUT RAND

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There are many issues in which the 2026 mid terms are focusing on. One of them is AI data centers. With the JP Morgan Chase financial data center in the background, Congressman Mike Lawler took aim at Cait Conley and according to Lawler, her wavering stance on them. Teresa Kenny, Orangetown Town Supervisor and State Senator Bill Weber were there to give their takes on this situation.

Lawler began the press conference. “All right, good morning everyone and thanks for coming out today. As many of you know, I live in this town in Pearl River, so I take this one personally. For months now, Cait Conley has been going around telling people Rockland has data centers because of me. This is a flat out lie. She's put it in writing and said it on the debate stage anyway. Last Saturday she knocked doors in Orangeburg, lying to voters again and again. The Journal News fact checked it. It isn't true. So, I asked a couple of people up here this morning who actually know who signed off on these things. Teresa Kenny took over as supervisor back in 2020, and before her was Andy Stewart. Now if you want to know what's in this town's files she's the one to ask, and she served in the town attorney's office for over 20 years. Teresa, thank you.”



Lawler, Kenny, Weber

“Thank you. Well, it was 23 years in the town attorney's office. I'm not here today to defend the Town of Orangetown and data centers, in general. I'm here to just correct statements that were made which are just false when there's no basis in fact for making they're false. The data centers that have been raised in the debates and in other places, every one of them was approved by the Orange Town Planning Board, the only agency with jurisdiction over them, prior to Mike, Congressman Lawler taking office in Congress.

Lawler came back to the mike and began telling about Cait Conley's statements on data centers. He pointed out the, what he called lies about them and him.”

“Well, thank you, Teresa. Now, here's the line Cait Conley keeps using, and I'm quoting her.”

‘On Mike Lawler's watch, there have been 5 data centers built in Rockland County.’

“Now Chris McKenna at the Journal News looked into it. I'm going to read you exactly what he wrote.

‘Quote, There are no obvious links between Lawler and the data centers built in his town. Lawler served on no Orangetown boards that granted approvals for the projects, and he had no say over them as a state assemblyman and then as a US member since 2023.’

<https://youtu.be/Nip2I3yTmsM>

According to Lawler the fact is these are not AI data centers. He says that the only person in this race who has any ties to AI is his opponent, Cait Conley. She's bought and paid for by them. She has two no-show jobs from two AI companies in which she can't tell you what she does for them. She hides behind NDAs and talks about national security and tries to tie it to her military service. It has nothing to do with her military service.

“The fact is, when she was in the White House in the Biden administration, she figured out a way to cash out. She negotiated for herself a sweetheart deal to be able to get two no-show jobs to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars from these AI companies. That's it. That's the reality. So, her attacks on this issue are laughable. Now down in Washington, I voted for the Ratepayer Protection Act. It passed the House 417 to 3 last month, which believe me, does not happen very often. Basically, it would push the states that make really big ones pay for their own grid upgrades instead of sticking you with your electric bill. They would force the large-scale data centers to build the generation. That's the objective. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats blocked that legislation.

So perhaps Cait should pick up the phone and call Chuck Schumer, who could have let the bill pass with a wave of a hand.” Lawler said.

He concluded this segment by stating that the paper of record here has set the record straight, so Cait should stop lying to the people of the Hudson Valley, as she has done repeatedly on multiple issues. Now Joe Rand is running for state Senate.

The guy he's running against has represented Orangetown in Albany since 2023, and he knows this record about as well as anybody, Senator Bill Weber.

“Thank you, Congressman. It's great to be here today alongside Supervisor Teresa Kenny. Let me be clear, I remain against taking zoning decisions out of the hands of local municipalities and handing over control to Albany. We saw Hochul and the Albany Democrats try this a few years ago with the housing, and we stopped them. If you remember, most elected officials that were in office at the time in Rockland and suburban districts, including myself, made it clear we want local control and not Hochul control. Now one of the people that wasn't saying that was Joe Rand, and we'll get to that in a few minutes.”

He said that having an excellent working relationship with Teresa Kenny and Mike Lawler remains very important to him, which is why he spoke regularly about the legislation in Albany regarding data centers and how it would not apply to the current data center projects and existing facilities in Orangetown. He had an intelligent and informative conversation about this topic with her and other stakeholders, while his opponent Joe Rand later came to a Democrat socialist organized protest with Senator Kristen Gonzalez, who a member of the DSA, protesting outside of Orangetown Town Hall. They held some signs and then he left, right?

<https://youtu.be/TLztw8A7my0>

"I think Joe continues to have a lot of explaining to do, and he really should address publicly what discussions he has had with his village administrator about data centers. He likes to talk about data centers. Everyone is curious to know what he and Andy are talking about on the campaign trail about data centers and the ones that Andy Stewart championed here. And finally, while Joe continues to do his angry, incoherent videos, we'll keep governing responsibly. I want to thank again the Congressman for putting this together, for setting the record straight. I want to thank Supervisor Kenny as well for her steadfast leadership in this town, a town that we all grew up in and love to serve, and with that, I'll hand it back to Congressman Lawler."

"Look, Cait Conley has made this a big piece of her campaign. And the Journal News says there's nothing behind it. Bloomberg was announced in 2013. Chase got approved in 2017. I wasn't involved in either one. The guy who was, who bragged about it, who said it was his proudest moment, works for Joe Rand. Joe Rand and Andy Stewart are out knocking doors with Cait Conley telling people to worry about data centers. You really can't make this stuff up."

"Tonight, Cait and I are on PIX 11 for our 2nd debate. Last one, by the way, 2 was all she was willing to agree to. So, if she wants to try this line again tonight, be my guest. The Journal News is on record. And while she's at it, maybe she can finally tell us what she did for the \$328,283 that she has got from two AI companies. For somebody who goes after big tech every chance she gets, she sure took a lot of their money. And if you look at her stock portfolio, that's all she owns. She still won't tell anybody what she did for that money."

Lawler stated look, folks around here have enough on their plate. Their electric bills keep going up under Kathy Hochul, up 58% because they shut down Indian Point, they banned natural gas, they blocked pipelines, they required all electric construction, and then they have the audacity to be shocked that utility rates went up when they limit the supply and Kathy Hochul's PSC continues to rubber stamp every utility rate hike. Folks hear something's going in down the road, and they want to know what it is. The last thing they need is somebody making stuff up about it.

I'll keep at it on making these data centers pay their own way. And Orangetown, like every other municipality in this district, will get the last word on what gets built in their community. And I'm not letting go of Kathy Hochul's power authority until they come clean on what all that discounted power for the Orangeburg data centers is really costing taxpayers and ratepayers."

"Look, my opponent truly doesn't understand these issues. She's not from here. She doesn't own a home here, she doesn't pay taxes here, and yet she wants to lecture every other community across this district about what they should and shouldn't do. At the end of the day this is about local control of zoning. We want large-scale AI data centers to pay their way. These data centers, including the one right behind me, were approved by a Democrat supervisor who works for a Democrat candidate running for state Senate who supports Cait Conley. They don't want you to know that. Those are just the facts."

Lawler then took questions from the press. CBS reporter Tony Aiello asked the first question. *Mike, why do you think this has become an issue? That cuts across the lines just up the way in Connecticut, Ryan Fazio is running ads against the Democratic Governor Ned Lamontt for supporting data centers, and we're seeing that dynamic in lots of races around the country. Isn't there a middle ground here, and why has it become so polarizing?*

<https://youtu.be/cpoG2wqJesw>

"And to be able to reinvest in their small businesses and hire more people and grow. This is like silly season at this point. So, look, it's a big issue because people are concerned about AI. The governor's moratorium again wouldn't apply to a single data center that has been built in my district, not one. So, people need to actually understand the facts. I have been leading with Josh Gottheimer on regulating AI, specifically the Stop Rogue AI Act, that would go after the rogue bots and agents and require NIST to set national standards for all of these companies in terms of how they track this, how they report it, how they cooperate with the federal government on these rogue AI agents." Lawler said.

"In addition, for all the frontier models, we have legislation that would require mandatory testing before it goes to the public, and that is something that Josh and I are working in a bipartisan collaborative way to get done. While Cait and Joe and whoever else continue to play politics on this issue."

I know you're trying to point to her hypocrisy as you see it. You have a quote right there from Cait Conley. We need data centers. We're not going to get rid of them. You agree with that sentiment, correct? We need data centers and we're not going to get rid of them.

"Data centers have been around for decades. This is not a new thing. The issue is about having regulations in place with respect to AI and these large-scale AI data centers with respect to energy consumption and water usage, which is why I was co-lead on the Ratepayer Protection Act to force these large-scale AI data centers to build power generation, to pay for the power generation that would be used for the data centers so it's not passed on to the ratepayers. But again, I am for local control of zoning. If a municipality doesn't want that data center in their community, they can oppose it. They can put a moratorium in place. That's the whole point." Lawler explained.

He stated that what Cait Conley is doing is trying to have it both ways here. She's benefiting from the very industry she's trying to say she's opposed to.

Congressman, to go off your statement and your stance, leading up to the local community, you're part of the local community. What say you?

"Yeah, the planning board, the zoning board, and the town board make that determination. I do not weigh in on local zoning issues for a reason. That's left up to the community, and I have stayed out of those decisions, as an elected official for a reason, that's not up to me. That is up to the local community to make that determination and so at the end of the day, Orangetown has had data centers built here, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg across the border in Mahwah, New Jersey, and the New York Stock Exchange data center. These data centers are tied to our financial markets. They are tied to protecting the financial data of a of the country."

<https://youtu.be/x8tD94odPbg>

Lawler concluded the conference and went to get ready for tonight's debate with Cait Conley.