



McCraw: Hinojosa Wrong, Data Centers Are National Security

Gina Hinojosa was recently asked whether she accepts the national security framing on data center buildouts. She responded that she does not. I respectfully disagree.

After serving more than four decades in the FBI and the Texas Department of Public Safety, I know firsthand that our nation's adversaries actively seek the sensitive information stored in data centers to engage in espionage, cyber-intrusions, and attacks on critical infrastructure.

This assessment is confirmed by the Intelligence Community. The [2026 Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community](#) states that China is the most active and persistent cyber threat to U.S. Government, private-sector, and critical infrastructure networks. Joint FBI and CISA reporting has documented how PRC state-sponsored actors have compromised U.S. telecommunications providers and related infrastructure to steal subscriber information, customer records, and network data.

Data centers that rely on hardware or software from adversarial nations, particularly China, or that operate outside U.S. control, create unacceptable national security vulnerabilities. [China-backed operatives have even used ChatGPT to generate social media content designed to stir up local opposition to data center projects](#). This demonstrates a clear intent to impede our capacity.

These facilities sit at the heart of critical infrastructure. The 2015 and 2016 Russian cyberattacks on Ukraine's power grid showed how adversaries with access to connected systems can trigger cascading failures. The Intelligence Community has repeatedly warned that China remains the most active cyber threat in this domain.

Finally, we are engaged in a high-stakes competition for AI supremacy. As the 2026 Assessment states, China "is the most capable competitor in the AI space and aims to displace the U.S. as the global AI leader by 2030." Sufficient secure data-center capacity is required to maintain America's technological and military edge.

The responsible buildout of secure data centers is a national security imperative. Rejecting that framing does not enhance American security.

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