

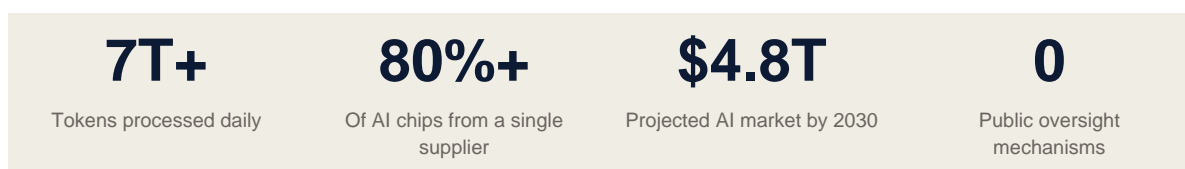
# Tax the Tokens

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS A UTILITY. TAX IT LIKE ONE.

## Fact Sheet & Talking Points

### THE PROBLEM

Artificial intelligence has become essential infrastructure. AI tokens power healthcare diagnostics, legal research, financial modeling, education, and government services. Yet this critical layer of our economy operates with zero public oversight, no shared benefit mechanism, and pricing controlled entirely by a handful of private companies.



### THE PROPOSAL

Tax the Tokens calls for a public conversation about classifying AI compute tokens as a utility and implementing a micro-levy on commercial token processing. Key elements:

- A fraction-of-a-cent levy per token on commercial AI providers
- Revenue directed to AI literacy, open-source research, and subsidized public access
- Exemptions or subsidies for open-source AI projects and nonprofits
- International coordination to prevent regulatory arbitrage
- Transparent governance with public input on how funds are allocated

### REVENUE POTENTIAL

Even at micro-levels, the scale of AI token processing makes a token tax significant. With trillions of tokens processed daily across major providers, a levy of \$0.0001 per 1,000 tokens could generate billions annually. This revenue would be earmarked for three priorities:

- Universal AI literacy programs for schools and public institutions
- Grants for open-source AI research and development
- Subsidized AI access for hospitals, schools, and government agencies

### TALKING POINTS

**The utility analogy is historically grounded.**

Every essential infrastructure technology in modern history -- electricity, water, telecommunications, the internet -- eventually came under some form of public oversight. AI is following the same trajectory.

**This is not anti-innovation.**

The internet thrived because of public investment through DARPA, NSF, and public universities. Taxation funds the commons that makes innovation possible.

**This is bipartisan.**

Utility regulation has roots in both conservative anti-monopoly tradition and progressive public investment frameworks. Opposing concentrated private control of essential services is not a partisan position.

**Open source should be protected, not penalized.**

Any well-designed framework would exempt or subsidize open-source AI, similar to how nonprofits receive tax benefits in other sectors.

**The offshore argument has limits.**

AI companies need data centers near users, access to talent pools, and functioning legal systems. International coordination addresses the rest.

**Skeptics are welcome.**

The worst outcome is not disagreement. It is silence. This campaign explicitly invites critics to participate in shaping the conversation.