

Tax the Tokens

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS A UTILITY. TAX IT LIKE ONE.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tax the Tokens Coalition Launches Campaign to Treat AI Intelligence as a Public Utility

New initiative calls for a public conversation about taxing AI compute tokens, with revenue directed toward AI literacy, open-source research, and universal access.

Washington, D.C. — Today, a cross-partisan coalition of researchers, policymakers, technologists, and citizens launched Tax the Tokens, a public initiative calling for a national and international conversation about whether artificial intelligence compute tokens should be classified and taxed as a public utility.

The campaign centers on a simple observation: AI tokens now power critical infrastructure across healthcare, education, finance, and government. Trillions of tokens are processed daily, running on hardware where a single company supplies over 80% of AI chips, with no public oversight and no mechanism to ensure the benefits are broadly shared.

“We tax electricity. We tax water. We tax telecommunications. The question is not whether AI qualifies as infrastructure. It’s why we’re pretending it doesn’t.”

— Tax the Tokens Coalition

The initiative does not prescribe a specific policy. Instead, it publishes a manifesto and seven core principles designed to frame the debate and invite broad participation, including from those who disagree with the premise.

Key Principles

- Intelligence is infrastructure and should be treated as a utility
- The public deserves a stake in technologies built on public research and data
- Access to AI should not become a luxury good

- Innovation thrives with guardrails and public investment
- AI governance must be global by default
- Tax revenue should fund AI literacy, open-source research, and public access
- This is a debate, not a decree — skeptics are welcome

The coalition estimates that even a fraction-of-a-cent micro-levy per token, applied at scale, could generate billions annually for public benefit. The campaign explicitly calls for exemptions or subsidies for open-source AI projects.

Tax the Tokens is seeking endorsements from thought leaders across policy, technology, academia, and civil society. The initiative is open to anyone who wants to participate in the conversation, regardless of their position on the question.

The full manifesto, principles, and coalition sign-up are available at taxthetokens.org.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Tax the Tokens Coalition
press@taxthetokens.org
taxthetokens.org