



February 6, 2020

The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
420 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: SUPPORT SB397- Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax Exemption – Data Centers

Dear Senator Hershey,

Kent Fiber Optic Systems supports the Senate Bill 397 that provides for a sales and use tax exemption for certain technology equipment for use at a qualified data center.

The proposed bill supports economic growth in Maryland and will provide opportunities for job growth throughout the State, especially in rural and economically depressed areas. Maryland has never been able to compete in the attraction of Data Centers because so many other states offer huge incentives.

Virginia enacted such laws over ten years ago and they are now the Data Center Hub of the Country. Bills like this not only provide jobs in technology but they also create many other jobs from supporting trades (ie electricians, plumbers, etc.) and all the hospitality industries that support them.

Kent Fiber Optics is in a Public/Private Partnership with Kent County, Maryland that has a 150 mile fiber backbone throughout the county that is in a great and unique position to attract Data Centers and create jobs and economic growth for the county.

Kent Fiber Optic Systems requests a favorable consideration for this bill.

Sincerely,

Dee Anna Sobczak
CEO
Kent Fiber Optic Systems, LLC

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