Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: SB 116 - Data Center Impact Analysis and Report
DATE: March 25, 2025

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

This bill would require the Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), to conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the State. This includes an assessment by MEA of the energy requirements of data centers and forecasted impacts on energy demand and supply in the state.

PJM, the Regional Transmission Operator that serves Maryland, is forecasting greater loads in its long-term forecast[1]. A report by GridStrategies indicates that the power sector nationwide does not have a clear understanding of just how much demand will come from data centers in the near future. "Industry specialists estimate five-year data center demand growth from as little as 10 GW to as much as 65 GW through 2029."[2]

It is important that Maryland be better able to understand the full impact of data center growth. Specifically, the State must have an understanding of how data center development will affect electrical demand and supply in order to properly plan for its energy future. For these reasons, **MEA urges the committee to adopt amendments conforming the Senate Version of the bill to mirror the House Version of the bill, and then to issue a favorable report as amended**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly (landon.fahrig@maryland.gov, 410.931.1537).

[1] 2025 PJM Long-Term Load Forecast Report.
https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/library/reports-notices/load-forecast/2025-load-report.pdf
[2] gridstrategiesllc.com/wp-content/uploads/National-Load-Growth-Report-2024.pdf