

HB0270_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0270 – FAVORABLE
Data Center Impact Analysis and Report)

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0270, Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

Good decisions by government can only occur when all relevant data needed to guide that decision is collected and made available to stakeholders and decision makers. Among the questions that must be answered when considering data centers impacts are:

- What is the financial impact of data centers?
- What are the water requirements for data centers?
- What is the land use environment for data centers?
- What are the power requirements of data centers?
- What are the effects on air quality/noise issues around data centers?
- What resources do we need at a local and state level to manage them?

This bill identifies who can obtain the data to help answer these questions. It will require the Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services, to conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the State. On completion of the data aggregation, it will mandate the Department of Legislative Services to coordinate preparation of the final report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1, 2026.

We have seen how our neighbors in Northern Virginia have had to deal with multiple problems and issues from the proliferation of data centers in their counties. ¹ WRIC news in Virginia reported *Booming data center industry both helps and hurts Virginia, JLARC study finds* ² Maryland has an opportunity to learn from this and do the work to avoid the problems our neighboring jurisdictions have faced and remediate them for Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0270.

¹¹ <https://www.vpm.org/news/2024-12-10/unprecedented-energy-demand-from-data-centers-poses-big-challenges-for-virginia-commission-says>

² <https://www.wric.com/news/taking-action/jlarc-report-data-centers-virginia/>