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January 21, 2025

## **Written testimony for HB0270: Data Center Impact Analysis and Report**

Dear Committee Members:

Data Centers have a huge impact on energy and water use in the surrounding communities. Just one data center alone consumes the energy of 500,000 homes and millions of gallons of water daily. They are ugly warehouse buildings no one wants to live near and due to heating and cooling systems nearby residents report that the sound emitted is like someone running a leaf blower next door 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Due to the regional aspect of the electricity grid, their energy impact is far reaching. The financial burden citizens bear in electricity rate increases to support these centers is a regressive tax on our most vulnerable citizens due to electricity rates being the same for all of us. Construction jobs affiliated with building data centers are short lived and there are minimal employment needs following that phase. Tax benefits to the area are far outweighed by incentives offered and citizen's higher energy bills and damage to the water quality and environment.

Virginia's lack of zoning restrictions on centers has reduced the quality of life and property values in the data center alley region. Maryland has an opportunity to get this right, BEFORE we allow data center complexes to be erected. Please help protect our citizen's pocket books and finite natural resources.

I appreciate your time and consideration of these important issues. Please vote to support House Bill 0270.

Very sincerely,

Jennifer Teeter