

House Economic Matters Committee

January 21, 2025

**Re: HB 270 / Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Committee:

**I'm a resident of Frederick, Maryland and I am very concerned about data centers and their potential effects on my county, my state and my nation.**

These facilities have a tremendous need for power, water and space... the demand for land for these buildings pushes the cost of an acre of land beyond the reach of regular residents. The last time I checked, an acre of land in northern Virginia — data center capital of the world — was \$4 million per acre.

In Frederick, our County Executive appointed 8 or so citizens to a Data Center Working Group to look at the pros and cons. I listened to or attended most of the meetings and was alarmed at the negative possibilities inherent in hosting these facilities in our county. A study of data centers was done by the Maryland Tech Council, but appeared biased, because it highlighted mostly the benefits and didn't fully consider all of the costs.

**A serious and thorough study, such as the one proposed by HB 270 is a welcome idea. We need to know all of the facts about data centers — positives AND negatives.**

Please support HB 270 to assure that Maryland fully understands whether data centers in our state are worth pursuing and attracting here... or not.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Patrice Gallagher  
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