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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chair C.T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
230 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 270 – FAVORABLE – Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

House Bill 270 requires the Maryland 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. Pending the work conducted by the aforementioned entities, the bill requires the Department of Legislative Services to submit a report summarizing the findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before September 1, 2026. To assist with the analysis required by this legislation, under section (c)(2) of the language, the Maryland Department of Legislative Services can request from the Maryland Public Service Commission (and the Commission shall provide) any information necessary to complete the analysis.

The Maryland Public Service Commission is the main regulatory body overseeing the operations of electric utilities in Maryland and therefore houses extensive data and information on the energy industry within Maryland. The Commission anticipates an increased workload amongst Commission Technical Staff due to the provision and compilation of data necessary to complete the required analysis. While the Commission cannot currently quantify the exact fiscal impact at this time, the Commission urges favorable consideration of HB 270.

If enacted, the report and analysis generated through this legislation will be valuable in determining the impacts of data center development in Maryland and the Public Service Commission supports this proposed legislation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony on HB 270. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Christina M. Ochoa, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick H. Hoover".

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair
Maryland Public Service Commission