

Testimony Supporting HB0270
House Education, Matters, Committee
January 21, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee, as a resident of 3rd district and a life-long researcher on water issues for the state and region, I am writing to express my strong support of HB0270, the Data Center Impact Analysis and Report Act. Proposed data centers in Frederick pose serious concerns for water use and access for not only the new computing facilities but existing and future residential, business, and industrial users. Additionally use of potable water is already maxed at 1.3 mgd, so what is the additional water source for any centers beyond the two already accepted in the County? Another issue is groundwater, critical for recharge of our local streams and wells of surrounding neighbors, most cropland or grazing areas. With the huge impervious surfaces of data center campuses, normal infiltration is altered, jeopardizing baseflow that is responsible for summer stream flows and resupply of the unconsolidated Piedmont aquifer and wells. Further, the extreme rain events of the new climate ensure massive stormwater runoff, carrying accumulated roof and parking lot particulates as well as soluble compounds regulated in the state's TMDL regulations, jeopardizing not only local waterway plants, animals, and nutrient cycling in streams but downstream deterioration of tributaries and the Bay.

Hence it is critical to conduct the proposed study so my position is FAVORABLE for HB0270.
Dr. Kevin Sellner, Ph.D.