



HB0270 - SUPPORT

Sonia Demiray
Climate Communications Coalition
sonia@demirayink.com
202-744-2948

HB0270- Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

Economic Matters Committee

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Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, the Climate Forests Campaign, Eastern Forests Advocacy Group, and leadership member of the Forest Carbon Coalition. The Climate Communications Coalition strongly supports HB270.

As we have learned from our neighbors in Virginia, hyperscale datacenters, the likes of which are being considered in Maryland, require such large amounts of power, water, and land that they monumentally transformation any locality in which they are built. In Frederick, a 2,100 acre site is transforming bucolic Adamstown through an imposing a gigawatt-scale Quantum Loophole datacenter campus.

Concerns were already raised over the drilling of a 41-mile fiber optic tunnel which has resulted in the repeated release of harmful drilling mud into creeks leading to the nearby Monocacy River. Large concerns are being raised over diesel-back up power generators which spew toxic nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and carbon dioxide (CO₂) into this sleepy neighborhood first, to then add to the greenhouse gases warming our climate. We know that Maryland cannot produce the amount of power required by these data centers, hence backup power will be key. In addition to the air pollution, what about the light and noise pollution?

We must refrain on rushing into these large development projects without fully understanding the impact. Can Data Centers bring their own clean power (solar, wind or geothermal)? What sort of power-storage systems are being considered? Where will the water be drawn from?

It is key that we conduct an analysis of the environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the State. We urge a favorable report on HB0270.

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