

# *Kent County Economic Development Commission*

*400 High Street  
Chestertown, MD 21620*

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Mill Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT** Senate Bill 0397 - Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax - Exemptions  
– Data Centers

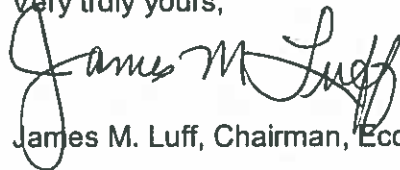
Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The Kent County Economic Development Commission fully supports Senate Bill 0397. The proposed bill encourages data centers to locate in the State of Maryland. This will give Maryland the opportunity to compete in the market for data centers. The industry is both environmentally friendly and provides high paying jobs. Those two factors are very desirable for rural areas, particularly Kent County, which is a Tier I county.

Kent County's substantial investment in fiber infrastructure has positioned us to attract technology-based businesses. In addition, businesses that follow data center locations will create jobs and increase state and county tax revenues.

Please take into consideration the significant opportunities Senate Bill 0397 would create for the State of Maryland, and rural areas like Kent County. For these reasons, The Kent County Economic Development Commission respectfully requests a favorable consideration of Senate Bill 0397.

Very truly yours,



James M. Luff, Chairman, Economic Development Commission

Cc: Jamie Williams CEcD, Director Economic Development  
Kent County Commissioners  
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs  
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz  
The Honorable Jeffery Ghrist