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February 5, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone:

I am writing in support of **Senate Bill 397, Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax – Exemptions – Data Centers** to provide an exemption from the sales and use tax for certain qualified computer technology equipment for use at a qualified data center.

The proposed bill encourages data centers to locate in the state of Maryland. This industry is both environmentally friendly and provides high paying jobs that are especially needed in the rural areas of Maryland, including Caroline County. This bill gives Maryland a competitive place in the market for data center attraction.

A Sales and Use Tax exemption will help attract data centers to choose Maryland over neighboring Virginia and Delaware. State, counties, and municipalities could realize additional tax revenue from the increase in economic activity and jobs.

Caroline County supports Senate Bill 397 and requests a favorable report from the Budget and Taxation Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Bowden".

Debbie Bowden
Director