



February 6, 2020

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

SUBJ: SB 397 – Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax – Exemptions – Data Centers

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

I write to you in advance of the scheduled bill hearing on the subject legislation. As I understand the schedule, the bill will be heard before your Committee on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

As the President/CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, I want to bring to your attention that Frederick County government’s Office of Economic Development has developed a specific and so far effective strategy to solicit large-scale data centers and similar facilities. Our local higher education and local economic development partners are speaking with one voice when we ask for the Committee’s support in consideration of this personal property tax exemption.

The competitive environment for these types of businesses is serious and real. Virginia has already established several, and seeks to develop many more. We know that when these facilities land in our communities, they have an immediate and positive impact. A typical large-scale data center can support as many as 160 jobs, \$7.8 million in annual wages, \$32 million in local spending and as much as \$1.1 million in state and local government revenue.

The 900-member organizations of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, representing almost 42,000 public, private and nonprofit sector workers, strongly support this bill, and urge the Committee to give it serious and favorable consideration recognizing how it will help us grow this important employment and technology sector across the State of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Richard B. Weldon, Jr
President & CEO

Dear Guy,
This letter is my first
chance to congratulate you
on your Chairmanship! I don't
think we'd have imagined this all
of those years ago on the House
floor!
Fondly,
Rick